

AP Psychology Terminology List for 2024 Framework

Note: This list is derived from the 2024 course framework. This list is not necessarily exhaustive but includes the terms that were listed under the essential knowledge column in the unit guides.

Science Practices

- Cultural norms
- Confirmation bias
- Hindsight bias
- Overconfidence
- Independent variables
- Confounding variables
- Dependent variables
- Random assignment
- Case study
- Correlation
- Positive Correlation
- Negative Correlation
- Meta-analysis
- Naturalistic observation
- Hypothesis
- Falsifiable (as it pertains to hypotheses)
- Operational definitions
- Replication
- Central tendency
- Variation
- Percentile rank
- Mean
- Median
- Mode
- Range
- Normal curve
- Positive skew
- Negative skew
- Bimodal distribution
- Standard deviation
- Regression toward the mean
- Sample
- Population
- Representative sample
- Random sampling
- Convenience sampling
- Generalizing
- Experimental group
- Control group
- Placebo
- Placebo effect
- Single-blind study
- Double-blind study
- Experimenter bias
- Social desirability bias
- Qualitative research/measures
- Structured interviews
- Quantitative research/measures
- Likert scales
- Representation of participants
- Peer review
- Replication
- Scatterplot
- Correlation coefficient
- Effect sizes
- Statistical significance
- Directionality problem (in correlation)
- Third variable problem (in correlation)
- Institutional review
- Informed consent
- Informed assent
- Protection from harm
- Confidentiality
- Deception
- Debriefing

Unit 1: Biological Bases of Behavior

Interaction of Heredity and Environment

- Heredity
- Nature
- Nurture
- Genetic predisposition
- Evolutionary perspective
- Natural selection
- Eugenics
- Twin studies
- Family studies
- Adoption studies

Overview of the Nervous System

- Central nervous system (brain and spinal cord)
- Peripheral nervous system
- Autonomic nervous system
- Sympathetic nervous system
- Parasympathetic nervous system
- Somatic nervous system

The Neuron and Neural Firing

- Neurons
- Glial cells
- Reflex arc
- Sensory neurons
- Motor neurons
- Interneurons
- Neural transmission
- Action potential
- All-or-nothing principle
- Depolarization
- Refractory period
- Resting potential
- Reuptake
- Threshold
- Multiple sclerosis
- Myasthenia gravis
- Excitatory neurotransmitters
- Inhibitory neurotransmitters
- Dopamine
- Serotonin
- Norepinephrine
- Glutamate
- GABA
- Endorphins

- Substance p
- Acetylcholine
- Hormones
- Adrenaline
- Leptin
- Ghrelin
- Melatonin
- Oxytocin

- Psychoactive drugs
- Agonists
- Antagonists
- Reuptake inhibitors
- Stimulants
- Caffeine
- Cocaine
- Depressants

- Alcohol
- Hallucinogens
- Marijuana
- Opioids
- Heroin
- Tolerance
- Addiction
- Withdrawal

The Brain

- Brain stem
- Medulla
- Reticular activating system
- Reward center
- Cerebellum
- Cerebral cortex
- Limbic system
- Thalamus
- Hypothalamus
- Pituitary gland
- Hippocampus
- Amygdala

- Corpus callosum
- Occipital lobes
- Temporal lobes
- Parietal lobes
- Association areas
- Somatosensory cortex
- Frontal lobes
- Linguistic processing
- Higher-order thinking
- Executive functioning
- Prefrontal cortex
- Motor cortex

- Split brain research
- Hemispheric specialization
- Broca's area
- Wernicke's area
- Aphasia (Broca's and Wernicke's)
- Contralateral hemispheric organization
- Plasticity
- EEG
- fMRI
- Lesioning

Sleep

- Consciousness
- Circadian rhythm (sleep/wake cycle)
- Jet lag
- Shift work
- NREM stage 1
- Hypnagogic sensations
- NREM stage 2

- NREM stage 3
- REM sleep
- REM rebound
- Activation-synthesis (dreams)
- Consolidation theory (dreams)
- Memory consolidation

- Restoration of resources
- Insomnia
- Narcolepsy
- REM sleep behavior disorder
- Sleep apnea
- Somnambulism

Sensation

- Sensation
- Transduction
- Absolute threshold
- Just-noticeable difference
- Sensory adaptation
- Weber's law
- Sensory interaction
- Synesthesia
- Retina
- Blind spot
- Visual nerve
- Lens
- Accommodation
- Nearsightedness
- Farsightedness
- Photoreceptors
- Rods
- Cones (blue, green, red)

- Trichromatic theory
- Opponent-process theory
- Afterimages
- Ganglion cells
- Dichromatism
- Monochromatism
- Prosopagnosia
- Blindsight
- Wavelength
- Pitch
- Amplitude
- Loudness
- Pitch perception
- Place theory
- Volley theory
- Frequency theory
- Sound localization
- Conduction deafness

- Sensorineural deafness
- Olfactory system
- Thalamus
- Pheromones
- Gustation
- Sweet, sour, salty, bitter, umami, oleogustus
- Taste receptors
- Supertasters
- Medium tasters
- Nontasters
- Sensory interaction
- Warm/cold receptors
- Gate control theory
- Phantom limb
- Vestibular sense
- Semicircular canals
- Kinesthesia

Unit 2: Cognition

Perception

- Bottom-up processing
- Top-down processing
- Schema
- Perceptual set
- Gestalt psychology
- Closure
- Figure and ground
- Proximity
- Similarity
- Attention
- Selective attention
- Cocktail party effect
- Inattention blindness
- Change blindness
- Binocular depth cues
- Retinal disparity
- Convergence
- Monocular depth cues
- Relative clarity
- Relative size
- Texture gradient
- Linear perspective
- Interposition
- Apparent movement

Thinking, Problem-Solving, Judgments, and Decision Making

- Prototypes
- Schemas
- Assimilation
- Accommodation
- Algorithms
- Heuristics
- Representativeness heuristic
- Availability heuristic
- Mental set
- Priming
- Framing
- Gambler's fallacy
- Sunk-cost fallacy
- Executive functions
- Creativity
- Divergent thinking
- Convergent thinking
- Functional fixedness

Introduction to Memory

- Storage
- Retrieval
- Explicit memory
- Episodic memory
- Semantic memory
- Implicit memory
- Procedural memory
- Prospective memory
- Long-term potentiation
- Working memory model
- Primary memory system
- Working memory
- Central executive
- Phonological loop
- Visuospatial sketchpad
- Long-term memory
- Multi-store model
- Sensory memory
- Iconic memory
- Echoic memory
- Automatic processing
- Effortful processing
- Encoding
- Storage
- Retrieval
- Levels of processing model
- Shallow encoding
- Deep encoding
- Structural, phonemic, semantic

Encoding Memories

- Encoding
- Mnemonic devices
- Method of loci
- Chunking
- Categories (as they pertain to grouping)
- Hierarchies (as they pertain to grouping)
- Spacing effect
- Memory consolidation
- Massed practice
- Distributed practice
- Serial position effect
- Primacy effect
- Recency effect

Storing Memories

- Sensory memory
- Short-term memory
- Working memory
- Long-term memory
- Maintenance rehearsal
- Elaborative rehearsal
- Memory retention
- Autobiographical memory
- Retrograde amnesia
- Anterograde amnesia
- Alzheimer's disease
- Infantile amnesia

Retrieving Memories

- Retrieval
- Recall
- Recognition
- Retrieval cues
- Context-dependent memory
- Mood-congruent memory
- State-dependent memory
- Testing effect
- Metacognition

Forgetting and Other Memory Challenges

- Forgetting curve
- Encoding failure
- Proactive interference
- Retroactive interference
- Tip-of-the-tongue phenomenon
- Repression (psychodynamic)
- Misinformation effect
- Source amnesia
- Constructive memory
- Memory consolidation
- Imagination inflation

Intelligence and Achievement

- Intelligence
- g (general intelligence)
- Intelligence quotient (IQ)

- Mental age
- Chronological age
- Standardization
- Validity
- Construct validity
- Predictive validity
- Reliability
- Test-retest reliability
- Split-half reliability
- Stereotype threat
- Stereotype lift
- Flynn Effect
- Achievement tests
- Aptitude tests
- Fixed mindset
- Growth mindset

Unit 3: Development and Learning

Themes and Methods in Developmental Psychology

- Chronological development
- Lifespan development
- Stability and change
- Nature and nurture
- Continuous development
- Discontinuous development

Physical Development Across the Lifespan

- Teratogens
- Fine motor coordination
- Gross motor coordination
- Maturation
- Reflexes
- Rooting reflex
- Visual cliff
- Critical periods
- Sensitive periods
- Imprinting
- Growth spurt
- Puberty
- Primary sex characteristics
- Secondary sex characteristics
- Menarche
- Spermatarche
- Menopause

Cognitive Development Across the Lifespan

- Schemas
- Assimilation
- Accommodation
- Sensorimotor stage
- Object permanence
- Preoperational stage
- Mental symbols
- Pretend play
- Conservation
- Reversibility
- Animism
- Egocentrism
- Theory of mind
- Concrete operational stage
- Systematic thinking
- Formal operational stage
- Abstract thinking
- Hypothetical thinking
- Scaffolding (as it pertains to Vygotsky)
- Zone of proximal development
- Crystallized intelligence
- Fluid intelligence
- Dementia

Communication and Language Development

- Phonemes
- Morphemes
- Semantics
- Grammar
- Syntax
- Cooing
- Babbling
- One-word stage
- Telegraphic speech
- Overgeneralization of language rules

Social-Emotional Development Across the Lifespan

- Ecological systems theory
- Microsystem
- Mesosystem
- Exosystem
- Macrosystem
- Chronosystem
- Authoritarian parenting
- Authoritative parenting
- Permissive parenting
- Attachment styles
- Secure attachment
- Insecure attachment
- Avoidant attachment
- Anxious attachment
- Disorganized attachment
- Temperament
- Separation anxiety
- Parallel play
- Pretend play
- Egocentrism
- Imaginary audience
- Personal fable
- Social clock
- Emerging adulthood
- Stage theory of psychosocial development (Erikson)
- Trust and mistrust
- Autonomy and shame and doubt
- Initiative and guilt
- Industry and inferiority
- Identity and role confusion
- Intimacy and isolation
- Generativity and stagnation
- Integrity and despair
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Achievement (adolescent development)
- Diffusion (adolescent development)
- Foreclosure (adolescent development)
- Moratorium (adolescent development)
- Racial/ethnic identity
- Sexual orientation

- Religious identity
- Occupational identity
- Familial identity
- Possible selves

Classical Conditioning

- Behavioral perspective
- Classical conditioning
- Association
- Acquisition
- Associative learning
- Unconditioned stimulus (UCS)
- Unconditioned response (UR)
- Conditioned response (CR)
- Conditioned stimulus (CS)
- Extinction
- Spontaneous recovery
- Stimulus discrimination
- Stimulus generalization
- Higher-order conditioning
- Counterconditioning
- Taste aversion
- One-trial conditioning
- Biological preparedness
- One-trial learning
- Habituation

Operant Conditioning

- Operant conditioning
- Reinforcement
- Punishment
- Law of Effect
- Positive reinforcement
- Negative reinforcement
- Primary reinforcers
- Secondary reinforcers
- Reinforcement discrimination
- Reinforcement generalization
- Shaping
- Instinctive drift
- Superstitious behavior
- Learned helplessness
- Reinforcement schedules
- Continuous reinforcement
- Partial reinforcement
- Fixed interval
- Variable interval
- Fixed ratio
- Variable ratio
- Scalloped graph

Social, Cognitive, and Neurological Factors in Learning

- Social learning theory
- Vicarious conditioning
- Modeling
- Insight learning
- Latent learning
- Cognitive maps

Unit 4: Social Psychology and Personality

Attribution Theory and Person Perception

- Attributions
- Dispositional attributions
- Situational attributions
- Explanatory style
- Optimistic explanatory style
- Pessimistic explanatory style
- Actor/observer bias
- Fundamental attribution error
- Self-serving bias
- Internal locus of control
- External locus of control
- Mere exposure effect
- Self-fulfilling prophecy
- Social comparison
- Upward social comparison
- Downward social comparison
- Relative deprivation

Attitude Formation and Attitude Change

- Stereotype
- Cognitive load
- Prejudice
- Discrimination
- Implicit attitudes
- Just-world phenomenon
- Out-group homogeneity bias
- In-group bias
- Ethnocentrism
- Belief perseverance
- Confirmation bias
- Cognitive dissonance

Psychology of Social Situations

- Social norms
- Social influence theory
- Normative social influence
- Informational social influence
- Persuasion
- Elaboration likelihood model
- Central route
- Peripheral route
- Halo effect
- Foot-in-the-door technique
- Door-in-the-face technique
- Conformity
- Obedience
- Individualism
- Collectivism
- Multiculturalism
- Group polarization
- Groupthink
- Diffusion of responsibility
- Social loafing
- Deindividuation
- Social facilitation
- False consensus effect
- Superordinate goals
- Social traps
- Industrial-organizational (I/O) psychologists
- Burnout
- Altruism

- Prosocial behavior
- Social debt
- Social reciprocity norm
- Social responsibility norm
- Bystander effect
- Situational variables
- Attentional variables

Psychodynamic and Humanistic Theories of Personality

- Psychodynamic theory
- Unconscious processes
- Ego defense mechanisms
- Denial
- Displacement
- Projection
- Rationalization
- Reaction formation
- Regression
- Repression
- Sublimation
- Projective tests
- Preconscious mind
- Unconscious mind
- Humanistic psychology
- Unconditional regard
- Self-actualizing tendency

Social-Cognitive and Trait Theories of Personality

- Social-cognitive theory
- Reciprocal determinism
- Self-concept
- Self-efficacy
- Self-esteem
- Self-concept
- Trait theories
- Big Five theory
- Agreeableness
- Openness to experience
- Extraversion
- Conscientiousness
- Emotional Stability
- Personality inventories
- Factor analysis

Motivation

- Drive-reduction theory
- Homeostasis
- Arousal theory
- Optimal level of arousal
- Yerkes-Dodson Law
- Self-determination theory
- Intrinsic motivation
- Incentive theory
- Extrinsic motivation
- Instincts
- Lewin's motivational conflicts theory
- Approach-approach conflicts
- Approach-avoidance conflicts
- Avoidance-avoidance conflicts
- Sensation-seeking theory
- Thrill seeking
- Adventure seeking
- Disinhibition
- Boredom susceptibility
- Ghrelin
- Leptin
- Hypothalamus
- Pituitary gland

Emotion

- Affect
- Internal and external factors
- Physiological vs cognitive experiences
- Cognitive label
- Facial-feedback hypothesis
- Cognitive appraisal
- Display rules
- Elicitors

Unit 5: Mental and Physical Health

Introduction to Health Psychology

- Health psychology
- Stress
- Hypertension
- Immune suppression
- Stressors
- Eustress (motivating)
- Distress (debilitating)
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- General adaptation syndrome (GAS)
- Alarm reaction phase
- Resistance phase
- Flight-flight-freeze response
- Exhaustion phase
- Tend-and-befriend theory
- Problem-focused coping
- Emotion-focused coping

Positive Psychology

- Positive psychology
- Well-being
- Resilience
- Positive emotions
- Gratitude
- Positive subjective experiences
- Subjective well-being
- Signature strengths
- Virtues
- Positive objective experiences
- Happiness
- Subjective well-being
- Categories of virtues (wisdom, courage,

humanity, justice,
temperance,
transcendence)

- Posttraumatic growth

Explaining and Classifying Psychological Disorders

- Dysfunction
- Distress
- Deviation from the social norm
- Cultural/societal norms
- Stigma
- Racism
- Sexism
- Ageism
- Discrimination
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)
- International Classification of Mental Disorders (ICD)
- Eclectic approach
- Behavioral perspective
- Maladaptive learned associations
- Psychodynamic perspective
- Humanistic perspective
- Cognitive perspective
- Evolutionary perspective
- Sociocultural perspective
- Biological perspective
- Biopsychosocial model
- Diathesis-stress model

Selection of Categories of Psychological Disorders

- Neurodevelopmental disorders
- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Schizophrenic Spectrum Disorders
- Delusions
- Hallucinations
- Disorganized thinking
- Disorganized speech
- Disorganized motor behavior
- Negative symptoms
- Positive symptoms
- Delusions
- Delusions of persecution
- Delusions of grandeur
- Hallucinations
- Word salad
- Catatonia
- Flat affect
- Catatonic stupor
- Dopamine hypothesis
- Depressive disorders
- Major Depressive Disorder
- Persistent Depressive Disorder
- Bipolar disorders
- Cycling
- Mania
- Depression
- Bipolar I Disorder
- Bipolar II Disorder
- Anxiety disorders
- Specific phobia
- Acrophobia
- Arachnophobia
- Agoraphobia
- Panic disorder
- Panic attack
- *Ataque de nervios*
- Social anxiety disorder
- *Taijin kyofusho*
- Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD)
- Obsessive-compulsive and related disorders
- Obsessions
- Compulsions
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder
- Hoarding disorder
- Dissociative disorders
- Dissociation
- Dissociative amnesia
- Dissociative identity disorder
- Trauma and stressor-related disorders
- Hypervigilance
- Flashbacks
- Insomnia
- Emotional detachment
- Hostility
- Posttraumatic stress disorder
- Feeding and eating disorders
- Anorexia nervosa
- Bulimia nervosa
- Personality disorders
- Cluster A (odd or eccentric cluster)
- Paranoid personality disorder
- Schizoid personality disorder
- Schizotypal personality disorder
- Cluster B (dramatic, emotional, or erratic cluster)
- Antisocial personality disorder
- Histrionic personality disorder
- Narcissistic personality disorder
- Borderline personality disorder
- Cluster C (anxious or fearful cluster)
- Avoidant personality disorder
- Dependent personality disorder
- Obsessive-compulsive personality disorder

Treatment of Psychological Disorders

- Evidence-based interventions
- Cultural humility
- Therapeutic alliance
- Psychotropic medication
- Nonmaleficence
- Fidelity
- Integrity
- Respect for people's rights and dignity
- Psychodynamic therapies
- Free association
- Dream interpretation
- Cognitive therapies
- Cognitive restructuring
- Fear hierarchies
- Combating maladaptive thinking
- Cognitive triad
- Applied behavior analysis
- Exposure therapies
- Systematic desensitization
- Aversion therapies
- Token economies

- Biofeedback
- Cognitive-behavioral therapies
- Dialectical behavior therapy
- Rational emotive behavior therapy (REBT)
- Person-centered therapy
- Active listening
- Unconditional positive regard
- Group therapy
- Hypnosis
- Psychoactive medication
- Antidepressants
- Antianxiety drugs
- Lithium
- Antipsychotic medications
- Tardive dyskinesia
- Psychosurgery
- Lesioning
- TMS (transcranial magnetic stimulation)
- Electroconvulsive therapy
- Lobotomy