

AP Psychology - Summer Assignment

Wheaton High School 2020 - 2021

Mrs. Tobii Mason & Ms. Katarina Pisini

The Nature of the Class ~ AP Psychology:

AP Psychology is an elective, college-level course that will have higher student expectations than the traditional Psychology elective course. Upon completion of this course, you will have the opportunity to earn college credit through the AP Exam. **You will be expected to complete all assignments, come to class prepared each day, keep up with your reading and studying, and ultimately, succeed on the AP Exam in May.** We expect our AP Psychology students to attend class, take notes, participate in class discussions, study for exams, and complete all assignments. The ability and willingness to read and study regularly is essential for success in this class. There is not enough time to cover every term/concept/theory in class, so you will be responsible for learning some information independently. **You do not need to be an outstanding student to succeed in this course, but you do need to be motivated and willing to work.** This summer assignment is designed to start building the foundation of your knowledge in psychology, which you will need to be successful in this class.



Why do I have to do a Summer Assignment?

This summer assignment will fulfill two objectives:

1. You will be able to describe your motivations for taking AP Psychology and understand the expectations for the course by composing a letter about yourself. (Task #1)
2. You will be able to perceive the historical evolution of psychology as well as analyze how psychologists understand and explain human behavior using the 7 major perspectives in psychology. (Task #2)

Who do I contact if I have questions about the Summer Assignment?

Please contact Mrs. Mason at tobii.r.mason@mcpsmd.net and/or Ms. Pisini at katarina.pisini@mcpsmd.net. **PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT EITHER ONE OF US WITH QUESTIONS!**

What materials do I need for class?

It is recommended that you have the following materials with you starting on the first day of class:

- Folder / Binder (There will be plenty of handouts during the class)
- Spiral Notebook / Composition Book (One for Module Reading Notes & another for Unit Vocabulary)
- Pens & Pencils
- Positive motivation & a mind ready to learn

It is also recommended that you purchase an AP Psychology Review Book. Below are some suggestions. You can find used versions online via amazon and other sites - any review book published after 2014 will be great!

- Barron's AP Psychology (Wesley & McEntarffer)
- 5 Steps to a 5 AP Psychology (L. Lincoln Maitland)

When will the Summer Assignment be due?

- Task #1 ~ About Me Letter: *Complete by the first Friday of school, 9/4 with a Deadline of Friday, 9/11*
- Task #2 ~ Psychology History & Perspectives Assignment: *Due on the first Friday of school, 9/4 with a Deadline of Friday, 9/11*
- Please note: *If you turn in your assignment after the due date but before the deadline, 10% will be deducted from the overall total points earned.*

Summer Assignment Task #1: *About Me Letter*

This assignment is designed for us to get to know you prior to the school year. In addition, this paper will help you to start thinking about your “ideal self” which we will discuss in the spring semester. In this assignment, you are to use well written, complete sentences, avoid abbreviated words, follow proper grammar rules, and utilize spell check. Keep in mind that this is a professional communication similar to what you would use with a college professor and/or employer. Compose your letter and submit via Google Classroom prior to the first Friday of school, 9/4.

Include the following in your letter:

- Introduce yourself. Tell us about your family, where you are from, and an interesting fact from your childhood.
- What are your hobbies? What do you like to do for fun?
- What extracurricular activities are you involved in or planning to be involved in? Sports? Clubs? Other activities?
- Do you have a job? If so, what is it? Do you like it? Is this something you would like to continue as a career?
- What are your goals or plans after high school? Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
- Why are you taking AP Psychology? What are you looking forward to in this class? What areas of psychology interest you?
- Are you enrolled in other AP courses? Have you taken other AP courses throughout your high school career?
- How will you manage your time throughout this upcoming school year? If you are a senior/12th grader, how will you avoid catching the inevitable senioritis bug?
- What else should we know about you so that we have insight into you as a person before the next school year begins?

Summer Assignment Task #2: Psychology History & Perspectives

Directions: Using the online copy of the first three modules of Unit 1 in our AP Psychology Textbook, complete the following questions & graphic organizers for each module. This information will help you create a foundation of knowledge in the history and perspectives of AP Psychology. Make sure to take clear and concise notes as you will be using this assignment for our Summer Assignment Open Note Quiz.

Module 1 ~ Psychology's History:

1. Complete the following chart with details to support each early theorist's beliefs regarding the nature of the mind, body, and knowledge.

Theorist / Philosopher	Viewpoint
<i>Socrates</i>	
<i>Plato</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Knowledge is innate - born within us● Mind is separate from the body - continues after the body dies
<i>Aristotle</i>	
<i>Rene Descartes</i>	
<i>Francis Bacon</i>	
<i>John Locke</i>	

2. Complete the following chart detailing the contributions and important psychological milestones of each early psychologist.

Psychologist	Contribution / Milestone
<i>Wilhelm Wundt</i>	
<i>G. Stanley Hall</i>	
<i>Edward Titchener</i>	
<i>Charles Darwin</i>	
<i>William James</i>	
<i>Mary Whiton Calkins</i>	
<i>Margaret Floy Washburn</i>	

3. Complete the following chart with information about the developments in contemporary psychology from 1920 to the present.

Psychologist	Psychological Approach to Explaining Behavior & Mental Processes	Key Terms
<i>John B. Watson</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Little Albert
<i>B.F. Skinner</i>	You should observe & record people's behavior to understand them	
<i>Sigmund Freud</i>		
<i>Abraham Maslow</i>		
<i>Carl Rogers</i>		

4. Define psychology - both the textbook definition and in your own words.

5. Differentiate between empiricism, structuralism, and functionalism. How are they different? How are they similar? Use the chart below.

Empiricism:	Structuralism:	Functionalism:
Similarities:		
Differences:		

Module 2 ~ Psychology's Big Issues & Approaches:

- List a few of your more prominent traits - physical, intellectual, personality, etc. that you feel either were inherited (nature) or arose from your environment (nurture).

Nature	Nurture
Eye Color	Being Organized

- Using the trait of shyness, apply the seven perspectives to explain why a person might be shy. One is done for you as an example.

Perspective	This person is shy because....
<i>Behavioral</i>	She learned that when she is quiet and avoids eye contact, other people leave her alone. She feels pleasure at being left alone to think her own thoughts and daydream, which is her reward for demonstrating the behavior of being shy.
<i>Biological</i>	
<i>Cognitive</i>	
<i>Evolutionary</i>	
<i>Humanistic</i>	
<i>Psychodynamic</i>	
<i>Social-Cultural</i>	

3. Complete the chart below by providing the focus of each of the subfields of psychology.

Subfield of Psychologists	Focus
<i>Biological</i>	
<i>Developmental</i>	
<i>Educational</i>	
<i>Personality</i>	
<i>Social</i>	
<i>Industrial - Organizational</i>	
<i>Personality</i>	
<i>Counseling</i>	
<i>Clinical</i>	
<i>Psychiatrists</i>	
<i>Positive</i>	
<i>Community</i>	

4. What is the difference between basic research and applied research?

5. How can you use psychology to help you learn & remember, and do better on the AP Exam? What is the testing effect? What other study tips will you use this school year?

Module 3 ~ Careers in Psychology:

1. Name & describe the subfields that focus on:

- a. People & their work environments

- b. How people change over the lifespan

- c. The human thinking involved in perceiving, remembering, speaking, and decision making

- d. Diagnosing and treating psychological disorders

Check Yourself: Now that you have mastered the basics, apply your knowledge, work through the case study below to see if you can evaluate and analyze using basic material you have learned. You are not diagnosing the patient in the case, simply explaining her behavior through the lens of each major modern approach.

Arianna is nervous around large crowds and often leaves social situations like school dances and parties because she feels like she might have a panic attack. Her father died when she was a young girl, but she still often has nightmares about his death. Arianna enjoys schools, and because she generally receives good grades, she appreciates the positive feedback from her teachers that encourages her to improve her academic skills.

Perspective	Explanation of Arianna's Behavior
<i>Biological</i>	
<i>Behavioral</i>	
<i>Cognitive</i>	
<i>Evolutionary</i>	
<i>Humanistic</i>	
<i>Psychodynamic</i>	
<i>Social-Cultural</i>	