

AP[®] Psychology

Clarifications and Corrections

About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus. We commit to support educators and communities in their efforts to make AP courses widely available, advancing students in their plans for college and careers.

Course and Exam Description Clarifications and Corrections

Implemented as of October 2025

- In the Course and Exam Description front matter, the “About AP” section was updated to include career preparation alongside college preparation as anchors of the AP Program. The Advanced Placement Program is committed to expanding the invitation to students to challenge themselves with college-level coursework and career preparation.

Science Practices Updates

- The second bullet point of Practice 1.A (p. 14) provides the list of psychological perspectives in the field that are found in Unit 5 for easier reference.
- The second bullet point of Practice 3.C (p. 15) adds clarifying information about effect size and statistical significance.

Course Content Updates

- In Topic 1.3, Essential Knowledge Statement 1.3.B.1 updates the term used as “all-or-none principle.”
- In Topic 1.4, Essential Knowledge Statement 1.4.A.2 adds “alertness” as a function of the reticular activating system.
- In Topic 1.5, Essential Knowledge Statement 1.5.A.3 corrects the spelling of “hypnagogic.”
- In Topic 3.7, Essential Knowledge Statement 3.7.A.2.iii corrects the description of spontaneous recovery in classical conditioning.
- In Topic 3.8, Essential Knowledge Statement 3.8.A.5.ii adds hyphens to the names of the schedules of reinforcement.

Exam Updates

- Part D of the Article Analysis Question (AAQ) now reads: “**Identify** one ethical guideline described in the study. **Describe** one way the researchers in the study applied this ethical guideline.” (p. 159)
 - For the AAQ, the source summary will include several ethical guidelines descriptions. Students must choose one of them to identify and describe accurately to earn the point.
 - The AAQ Scoring Guidelines for part D (pp. 169-172) reflect updated rubrics and examples to support the updated approach to part D.
- The Scoring Guidelines for the Evidence-Based Question (EBQ; pp. 174-178) has been updated to clarify scoring practices from the AP Reading:
 - In parts B(i) and C(i), the word “accurate,” as well as a note about how accurate evidence is operationalized in scoring, are added to provide clarity.
 - In parts B(ii) and C(ii), the additional note about the use of a psychological perspective, theory, concept, or research finding is clarified.

Forthcoming

- There are no forthcoming clarifications or corrections for the AP Psychology Course and Exam Description.