

AP[®]

 CollegeBoard

2020 Exam Sample Questions

AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY

2020 Exam Sample Question 1

(Adapted from: 2018 AP[®] Psychology Exam Question 1)

Allotted time: 25 minutes (plus 5 minutes to submit)

Note: It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

Jackie has been chosen for the lead role in the school play. She is both nervous and excited about this opportunity.

Explain how each of the following concepts may help her performance in the play.

- (a) Context-dependent memory
- (b) Acetylcholine
- (c) Kinesthetic sense
- (d) Selective attention

Explain how each of the following concepts may hinder her performance in the play.

- (e) Proactive interference
- (f) Yerkes-Dodson law of arousal
- (g) External locus of control

Note: This sample question has seven parts. Q1 on the 2020 AP Psychology Exam will be structured similarly and will have eight parts.

Sample Question 2

(Adapted from: 2000 AP Psychology Exam Question 2)

Allotted time: 15 minutes (plus 5 minutes to submit)

The police chief of New City states publicly that she sees a direct relationship between teenage arrests in New City for violent crimes and the popularity among New City teens of especially violent television shows. Design a correlational study to research this claimed relationship.

- (a) Provide an example of the operational definition of variables in the study.
- (b) Explain how the selection of participants should occur.
- (c) Explain how the researchers will consider generalizability of the study.
- (d) Provide example of an ethical consideration for this study.
- (e) Provide a different example of an ethical consideration for this study.

The police chief concludes that watching violent television shows leads to teens committing violent crimes in New City.

- (f) Do you support her conclusion? Explain your response.

Note: This sample question has seven parts. Q2 on the 2020 AP Psychology Exam will be structured similarly and will have six parts.