

# AP Psychology: Updates for 2019-20

- To bring you and your students new classroom resources and supports, we're making updates to AP<sup>®</sup> Psychology for the 2019-20 school year.
- These updates will give you a clearer sense of the content and skills that will be tested on the AP Exam. They'll also ensure that the exam format remains consistent from year to year.
- You won't need to update your syllabus in the AP Course Audit.
- Starting in August, you'll need to complete a simple digital activation process to access the new resources and help your students register for their exams.

## Course Updates

AP Psychology has been updated for the 2019-20 school year to make things clearer for you and your students.

### Course and exam information is now clearly presented in a course and exam description (CED).

- Currently, a course description booklet—a very general overview of course content, with a topic outline—is available to help you plan your instruction.
- Starting in late May 2019, you'll have access to a **course and exam description (CED)** that clearly outlines all required course content and defines how that content will be assessed on the exam.

### The CED organizes the course into nine commonly taught units.

- ♦ **Unit 1:** Scientific Foundations of Psychology
  - ♦ **Unit 2:** Biological Bases of Behavior
  - ♦ **Unit 3:** Sensation and Perception
  - ♦ **Unit 4:** Learning
  - ♦ **Unit 5:** Cognitive Psychology
  - ♦ **Unit 6:** Developmental Psychology
  - ♦ **Unit 7:** Motivation, Emotion, and Personality
  - ♦ **Unit 8:** Clinical Psychology
  - ♦ **Unit 9:** Social Psychology
- By organizing the courses into units, we're able to give you and your students free formative assessments—personal progress checks—that you can assign throughout the year to measure student progress.
  - We want to respect your time and expertise by providing a road map you can modify and adapt to your local priorities and preferences. You can choose to follow this suggestion for how content can be sequenced and paced. As always, you'll have the flexibility to organize the course content as you like.

## The CED defines specific learning targets and skills for students.

- Specific learning targets are included in the course framework so that it's clear for you and your students exactly what they should be able to do.
- In the framework, each learning target is clearly connected to specific course content. With this kind of specificity, you and your students will know **how** that content will be assessed on the AP Exam.
- The framework outlines distinct skills that AP Psychology students should practice throughout the year—skills that will help them learn to think like psychologists, such as applying psychological theories in authentic contexts and analyzing research studies.
- Throughout the CED, you'll find thoughtful suggestions for pairing course content with these skills.

## Some course content has been updated to better align with recent developments in the field.

- Content related to hypnosis has been removed.

## Exam Updates

Starting in the 2019-20 school year:

- The skills defined in the CED will be assessed in the same proportions on all versions of the exam. (Currently, because there aren't any defined course skills, the assessed skills vary.)
- The two free-response question tasks will stay consistent from year to year so that you and your students know what to expect on exam day.
- The total number of possible points for the free-response section will be 14—7 points for each question. (Currently, the number of points for each free-response question ranges from 5 to 8.)
- The weighting, timing, and number of questions on the exam aren't changing.
- The relative weight of different content areas on the multiple-choice section aren't changing.

You'll find complete details about the updated AP Psychology course and exam in the CED, available on AP Central® in late May 2019.

Print copies of the CED will be available in easy-to-use, customizable binders in June 2019.

Preorder your free copy at [collegeboard.org/CED](https://collegeboard.org/CED).

Visit [collegeboard.org/APPsych2019](https://collegeboard.org/APPsych2019) for the most up-to-date information, including:

- More information about the new resources;
- A detailed timeline of what you can expect and when; and
- A video preview of the CED and unit guides.