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Principal Features

Introduction

Complete the following:

"Psychology is the science of …" (4)

"Rather than casual observation, psychologists use rigorous, …" (4-5)

Four Recurring Themes in Psychology

Complete the following:

"Throughout this book (the authors) will introduce … the world of psychology through the use of four key organizing themes."

Question: What’s the action-oriented quality of research and practice in psychology? (5)
Question: Why is the relationship between *the brain and behavior* a recurring theme in psychology?

Question: Why is the interaction of *nature* and *nurture* a recurring theme in psychology?

Question: Why is it necessary to take *human diversity* into account in the study of psychology?
What Is This Science of Psychology?

Complete the following:

"Psychologists use scientific principles, methods, and procedures to develop an … (6)

"Mental processes include …

Question: What's the meaning of the following statement?

"Psychologists make inferences about mental processes by observing overt actions …"

"Like other modern sciences, psychology is based on two premises—empiricism and theory development."

Complete the following:

"According to the principle of empiricism, knowledge must be acquired through …

"A psychological theory is a collection of …
Three Principles of Scientific Endeavor

"By following … basic principles, psychologists become scientific researchers."

- **OBJECTIVITY.**
  
  [Example] Objectivity.

- **SYSTEMATICITY.**
  
  [Example] Systematicity.

- **HEALTHY SKEPTICISM.**
  
  [Example] Healthy skepticism.
The Scientific Method in Psychology

Complete the following:

"The **scientific method** is the technique used in psychology to … (7)

Note the five basic steps of the scientific method as an overview of how psychologists (and other scientists) do their work."

■ **STATE THE PROBLEM.**

[Examples] State the problem. (7-8)

■ **DEVELOP THE HYPOTHESIS.** (8)

[Examples] Develop a hypothesis.
Complete the following:

"Psychological research often takes the form of an experiment—a procedure in which researchers …

"A variable is a …

"In an experiment, there are two types of variables— independent variables and dependent variables."

"The independent variable is the variable that the experimenter …

"The dependent variable is the behavior or response that is expected to …"
Complete the following:

"Researchers try to be as precise as possible in defining independent and dependent variables. To do so, they often use an operational definition, a definition of a variable in terms of …

[Examples] Operational definition.

Complete the following:

"**Participants** are individuals who take …

"Once the participants are known to be comparable on important attributes, they are assigned randomly to either the experimental or the control (comparison) group."

"*Random assignment* means that the participants are assigned …

"The **experimental group** is the group of participants who …

"The **control group** is the …"
Question: What's the meaning of the following statements?

"Extraneous variables … affect the results of the experiment …"

" … they may confound results …"

■ COLLECT AND ANALYZE DATA.

"Psychologists usually use statistical methods to help summarize and condense the data."

Complete the following:

"For psychologists, a significant difference is a difference that is …"
Question: What is the role of critical thinking in the evaluation of psychological research?

Note the following five criteria that can be helpful in the evaluation of psychological research.

1. Purpose.
2. Methodology.
3. Participants.
4. Repeatability.
5. Conclusions.
Avoiding Ethnocentrism and Other Forms of Bias

Ethnocentrism

Question: What is ethnocentrism?

Question: What is institutional racism?
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, and Social Class

Question: What's the meaning of the following statement?

"The word race can mean dissimilar things … "

Question: What is *ethnicity*?

Complete the following:

Culture reflects a person's …

[Example] Cultural tradition
Question: What's the meaning of the following statement?

"Culture can … be described as promoting either an individualist or collectivist outlook."

[Examples] Individualist and collectivist cultures.

Question: What's the meaning of the following statement?

"Closely tied to culture is a person's social class … "
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, and Social Class
(Continued)

Examples] Social class.

Gender, Sexual Orientation, Age, and Disability

Question: What's the meaning of the following statements?

"Today, psychologists conduct research in which gender is variable."

"Sexual orientation is different from sexual behavior … "

(15)
Gender, Sexual Orientation, Age, and Disability

Question: What's the meaning of the following statement?

"Disability is a social construct …"

Diversity Within and Between Groups

Question: What's the meaning of the following statement?

"… there are usually more differences within a group than between groups …"

Ethics in Psychological Research

Question: What is the role of ethics in psychological research?
Ethics in Psychological Research

(Continued)

Question: What is informed consent? (17)

Question: What is debriefing? (18)

Question: Is it ever acceptable for researchers to deceive human participants in psychological studies?

[Examples] Deception in psychological research. (18-19)
Psychology: A Young Discipline

"The history of psychology is short—dating back just over 100 years."

The Early Traditions

■ STRUCTURALISM.

Question: What is *structuralism*?

Question: What is *introspection*?

Question: What are the criticisms of structuralism?

■ FUNCTIONALISM

Question: What is *functionalism*?
GESTALT PSYCHOLOGY

Question: What is Gestalt psychology?

Question: How did the gestalt school of thought influence other areas of psychology?

From Past to Present

THE PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVE

Question: What is the psychoanalytic approach to the study of behavior?

THE BEHAVIORIST PERSPECTIVE

Question: What is the behaviorist approach to the study of behavior?
THE HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVE

Question: What is humanistic psychology of behavior? (22-23)

Question: What's the meaning of the following statement?

"… human beings have a desire to achieve a state of self-actualization."

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Question: What is cognitive psychology?

Today's Perspectives

Question: What is the evolutionary psychological perspective? (24)
Today's Perspectives
(Continued)

Question: What's the meaning of the following statement?

"Evolutionary psychology assumes that … behavioral tendencies … help organisms adapt …"

[Examples] Evolutionary psychology.

THE BIOPSYCHOLOGY PERSPECTIVE

Question: What is the biopsychology perspective?
Question: What have been some of the important applications of the biological perspective?

Question: What is the social and cultural perspective in psychology?

Who Are These People Called Psychologists?

Note the following career fields in psychology and related professional areas.

- Clinical psychologists
- Counseling psychologists
- Psychiatrists
Who Are These People Called Psychologists?

Note the following career fields in psychology and related professional areas.
(Continued)

- Psychoanalysts

What Psychologists Do

Question: What is applied psychology?

Question: What is experimental psychology?

Making Psychology a Career

Note in this section the relative percentages of psychologists working in the delivery of human services and in research and teaching.

The Changing Face of Psychology

Note in this section how the modern day variety of psychologists' research interests and their wide-ranging socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds are contributing to a greater recognition of diversity among people.

END