AP Psychology Vocabulary Terms

This list has been modified from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, Frequently Cited Concepts list, I have added terms from recent AP Psychology Exams. The famous Psychologists are a separate list.

**History & Approaches**

1. Psychology
2. Approaches/perspectives of psychology
3. Biological psychology
4. Behavioral psychology
5. Cognitive psychology
6. Humanistic psychology
7. Psychodynamic psychology
8. Sociocultural psychology
9. Evolutionary psychology
10. Biopsychosocial psychology
11. Functionalism
12. Structuralism
13. Gestalt psychology
14. Introspection
15. Scientific method
16. Positive psychology
17. Industrial organizational psychology
18. Phenomenology
19. Subfields in psychology

**Research Methods**

1. Dependent variable
2. Independent variable
3. Case study
4. Generalizability
5. Experiment
6. Experimental method
7. Control group
8. Hypothesis
9. Naturalistic observation
10. Survey
11. Theory
12. Correlation coefficient
13. Operational definition
14. Experimental group
15. Correlational research
16. Random assignment
17. Mean
18. Median
19. Mode
20. Normal distribution
21. Double blind study
22. Sample
23. Standard deviation
24. Statistical significance
25. Stratified sample
26. Outliers
27. Reliability
28. Correlational coefficients
29. Confirmation bias
30. Negative correlation
31. APA ethical guidelines
32. Hawthorne effect
33. Positive skew
34. Random sample
35. Population
36. Scatter plots
37. Factor analysis
38. Standardization
39. Validity
40. Variance
41. Percentile rank

**Biological Basis of Behavio**r

1. Axon
2. Central nervous system/CNS
3. Cerebral cortex
4. Dendrites
5. Peripheral nervous system
6. Synapse
7. Thalamus
8. Autonomic nervous system
9. Gene
10. Hypothalamus
11. Neurons
12. Neurotransmitters
13. Sympathetic nervous system
14. Parasympathetic nervous system
15. Action potential
16. Cerebellum
17. Hormone
18. Limbic system
19. Homeostasis
20. Chromosomes
21. Corpus callosum
22. Myelin sheath
23. Pituitary gland
24. Endocrine system
25. Somatic nervous system
26. Medulla
27. Sensory neuron
28. Cell body
29. Frontal lobe
30. Occipital lobe
31. Temporal lobe
32. Parietal lobe
33. Placebo effect
34. Optic nerve
35. Synaptic vesicles
36. Reticular activating system
37. Soma
38. Nodes of Ranvier
39. Terminal buttons
40. Afferent nerves
41. Efferent nerves
42. Broca’s area
43. Wernicke’s area
44. Identical twins
45. Fraternal twins
46. Glycine
47. Sensory nerves
48. Speech areas
49. Nervous system
50. Norepinephrine
51. Dopamine
52. Serotonin
53. Ach/acetylcholine
54. Dominant genes
55. Glutamate/GABA
56. Mirror neurons
57. Neuroplasticity
58. Glial cells
59. Positron emission tomography/PET
60. Electroencephalogram/EEG
61. Magnetic resonance imaging/MRI
62. Endorphins
63. Heritability
64. Interneurons
65. Amygdala
66. Hippocampus
67. Behavioral genetics
68. Natural selection
69. Pons
70. Resting potential
71. Basilar membrane
72. Midbrain
73. Motor neurons
74. Receptors
75. Association areas
76. Eardrum
77. All or none law
78. Computed tomography/CT scan
79. Deoxyribonucleic acid/DNA
80. Functional magnetic resonance imaging/fMRI
81. Genotype
82. Hindbrain
83. Phenotype
84. Forebrain
85. Motor cortex

**Sensation & Perception**

1. Sensation
2. Perception
3. Absolute threshold
4. Retina
5. Rods
6. Cones
7. Difference threshold
8. Closure
9. Color blindness
10. Dichotic listening
11. Gustation
12. Olfaction
13. Audition
14. Figure-ground
15. Vitreous humor
16. Hammer anvil stirrup
17. Opponent process theory/color
18. Fovea
19. Trichromatic theory
20. Cochlea
21. Perceptual constancy
22. Monocular cues
23. Binocular cues
24. Conduction deafness
25. Pheromones
26. Transduction
27. Weber’s Law
28. Place theory
29. Retinal disparity
30. Taste buds
31. Tactile
32. Pitch
33. Timbre
34. Top down processing
35. Bottom up processing
36. Feature detector
37. Gate control theory
38. Substance p
39. Psychophysics
40. Sensory adaptation
41. Signal detection theory
42. Accommodation
43. Frequency theory
44. Habituation
45. Lens
46. Optic nerve
47. Pupil
48. Vestibular sense
49. Blind spot
50. Mere exposure effect
51. Linear perspective
52. Interposition texture gradient
53. Synesthesia
54. Proximity
55. Dark adaptation
56. Iris
57. Convergence
58. Hue
59. Size constancy
60. Shape constancy
61. Gestalt
62. Visual cliff
63. Grouping
64. Internal locus of control
65. Amplitude
66. Kinesthetic sense
67. Attention
68. Perceptual processes

**States of Consciousness**

1. Conscious
2. Unconscious
3. Preconscious
4. Nonconscious
5. Sleep
6. Sleep spindles
7. REM
8. NREM
9. Sleep disorders
10. Narcolepsy
11. REM behavior disorder
12. Somnambulism
13. Sleep apnea
14. Insomnia
15. Circadian rhythms
16. Manifest content
17. Latent content
18. Activation synthesis hypothesis
19. Meditation
20. Hypnosis
21. Stimulants
22. Overdose
23. Withdrawal
24. Psychoactive drugs
25. Sedative hypnotics
26. Chemotherapy/drug therapy
27. Tolerance
28. Opiate
29. Tardive dyskinesia
30. Neuroleptics
31. Hallucinogens
32. Depressants
33. Biofeedback
34. Physical dependence
35. Psychological dependence
36. Delirium tremens
37. Palimpsests/blackouts
38. Toxic amnesia
39. Dreams
40. Sedative hypnotics
41. Benzodiazepines

**Learning**

1. Classical conditioning
2. Operant conditioning
3. Observational learning
4. Latent learning
5. Shaping
6. Conditioned response
7. Conditioned stimulus
8. Spontaneous recovery
9. Stimulus generalization
10. Stimulus discrimination
11. Unconditioned response
12. Unconditioned stimulus
13. Learning
14. Negative reinforcement
15. Positive reinforcement
16. Punishment
17. Positive punishment
18. Negative punishment
19. Reinforcement
20. Social learning theory
21. Token economy
22. Cognitive learning
23. Secondary reinforcers
24. Schedules of reinforcement
25. Extinction/classical conditioning
26. Learned helplessness
27. Primary reinforcer
28. Secondary reinforcer
29. Fixed ratio schedule
30. Variable ratio schedule
31. Fixed interval schedule
32. Variable interval schedule
33. Law of effect
34. Partial reinforcer
35. Aversion therapy
36. Continuous reinforcer
37. Extinction/operant conditioning
38. Reflex
39. Cognitive map
40. Discriminative stimulus
41. Higher order conditioning
42. Habituation
43. Disinhibition

**Cognition,** includes-memory, language & thinking

1. Long term memory/LTM
2. Working memory
3. Semantic memory
4. Episodic memory
5. Chunking
6. Implicit memory
7. Proactive interference
8. Retroactive interference
9. Procedural memory
10. Prospective memory
11. Anterograde amnesia
12. Encoding
13. Explicit memory
14. Retrograde amnesia
15. Sensory memory
16. Flashbulb memory
17. Eidetic memory
18. Memory
19. Rote rehearsal
20. Overjustification
21. Elaborative rehearsal
22. Mnemonic devices
23. Retrieval
24. Tip of the tongue
25. Source amnesia
26. Storage
27. Short term memory/STM
28. Serial position effect
29. Priming
30. Recognition
31. Declarative memory
32. Primacy effect
33. Amnesia
34. Long term potentiation
35. Maintenance rehearsal
36. Recall
37. Decay theory
38. Encoding specificity principle
39. Heuristic
40. Algorithms
41. Functional fixedness
42. Prototypes
43. Concept
44. Morpheme
45. Phoneme
46. Syntax
47. Insight learning
48. Availability heuristic
49. Mental set
50. Representative heuristic
51. Language
52. Semantics
53. Confirmation bias
54. Telegraphic speech
55. Critical period
56. Overregularization
57. Language acquisition
58. I.Q.
59. Linguistic theories
60. Framing
61. Central route to persuasion
62. Metacognition
63. Scheme

**Motivation & Emotion**, includes Stress/Health

1. Anorexia nervosa
2. Motivation
3. Emotion
4. Bulimia nervosa
5. Drive
6. Instinct
7. James Lang theory
8. Cannon Bard theory
9. Schachter theory
10. Polygraph
11. Intrinsic motivation
12. Extrinsic motivation
13. Set point/weight
14. Sexual orientation
15. Drive reduction theory
16. Universal facial expressions
17. Need for achievement
18. Two factor theory
19. Glucose
20. Hierarchy of needs
21. Incentive
22. Homeostasis
23. Generalized anxiety disorder
24. General adaptation syndrome/GAS
25. Health psychology
26. Type A personality
27. Type B personality
28. Biopsychosocial model
29. Social support
30. Stressors
31. Psychoneuroimmunology

**Development**

1. Gender typing
2. Heritability
3. Critical period
4. Object permanence
5. Formal operational stage
6. Schemas
7. Accommodation/Piaget
8. Assimilation
9. Attachment
10. Concrete operational stage
11. Puberty
12. Preoperational stage
13. Sensorimotor stage
14. Conservation
15. Egocentrism
16. Fetus
17. Embryo
18. Longitudinal study
19. Cross sectional study
20. Developmental psychology
21. Gender identity
22. Maturation
23. Autism
24. Menarche
25. Menopause
26. Homosexuality
27. Zygote
28. Telegraphic speech
29. Alzheimer’s disease
30. Fetal alcohol syndrome
31. Gender
32. Imprinting
33. Teratogens
34. Adolescence
35. Authoritative parenting
36. Reflexes
37. Authoritarian parenting

**Personality**

1. Defense mechanism
2. Id
3. Ego
4. Superego
5. Projective test
6. Personality
7. Humanistic psychology
8. Trait
9. Transference
10. Repression
11. Nomothetic
12. Idiographic
13. Big five
14. Fixation
15. Trait theory
16. Temperament
17. Collective unconscious
18. Oedipus complex
19. Self-actualization
20. Self-efficacy
21. Psychodynamic theories
22. Archetypes
23. Psychosocial stage theory
24. Psychosexual stage theory
25. Self-concept
26. Thematic apperception test/TAT
27. Locus of control
28. Minnesota multiphasic personality inventory/MMPI
29. Projection
30. Reciprocal determinism
31. Rorschach Inkblot test
32. Anal stage
33. Genital stage
34. Oral stage
35. Phallic stage
36. Rationalization
37. Displacement/defense mechanism
38. Latency stage
39. Pleasure principle
40. Reaction formation
41. Reality principle

**Testing & Individual Differences**

1. Reliability
2. Validity
3. Intelligence quotient/IQ
4. Intelligence
5. Crystallized intelligence
6. Fluid intelligence
7. Flynn effect
8. Aptitude
9. Achievement
10. Bell curve
11. G factor
12. Standardization
13. Divergent thinking
14. Emotional intelligence
15. Factor analysis
16. Mental age
17. Mental retardation
18. Cognitively disabled
19. Gifted
20. Culture and testing issues
21. Triarchic theory of intelligence
22. Norms/testing

Ethics and standards in testing

**Abnormal Behavior**

1. Schizophrenia
2. Dissociative identity disorder
3. Personality disorder
4. Obsessive compulsive disorder/OCD
5. Panic disorder
6. Posttraumatic stress disorder/PTSD
7. Agoraphobia
8. Bipolar disorder
9. Antisocial personality disorder
10. Dissociative disorders
11. Delusions
12. Hallucinations
13. Major depressive disorders
14. Mood disorders
15. Anxiety disorders
16. Mania
17. Dissociative amnesia
18. Dissociative fugue
19. Conversion disorder
20. Somatoform disorders
21. Specific phobias
22. Hypochondriasis
23. Flat affect
24. Positive symptoms
25. Subjective distress
26. Cognitive theory of depression
27. Narcissism
28. Obsessions
29. Compulsive behaviors
30. Depression
31. Dopamine
32. Paranoia
33. Generalized anxiety disorder
34. Biopsychosocial model
35. Seasonal affective disorder
36. Social phobia
37. Psychophysiological
38. Organic

**Treatment of Abnormal Behavior**

1. Free association
2. Behavior therapy
3. Psychotherapy
4. Antipsychotic drugs for therapy
5. Psychoanalysis
6. Systematic desensitization
7. Electroconvulsive therapy/ECT
8. Cognitive therapy
9. Client centered therapy
10. Aversion therapy
11. Cognitive restructuring
12. Catharsis
13. Psychopharmacology
14. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors/SSRIs
15. Rational emotive behavior therapy/REBT
16. Resistance
17. Unconditional positive regard
18. Community psychology
19. Family therapy
20. Group therapy
21. Alcoholics Anonymous
22. Psychosurgery
23. Meta-analysis
24. Antidepressant drug therapy
25. Token economy
26. Prozac
27. Lobotomy

**Social Psychology**

1. Cognitive dissonance
2. Fundamental attribution error
3. Stereotype
4. Attitude
5. Diffusion of responsibility
6. Social psychology
7. Conformity
8. Prejudice
9. Discrimination-social behavior
10. Group think
11. Group roles
12. Social phobia
13. Aggression
14. Self-serving bias
15. Attribution
16. Deindividuation
17. Obedience
18. Gender roles
19. Group polarization
20. Social facilitation
21. Social loafing
22. Facial feedback hypothesis
23. Compliance
24. Altruism
25. Self-fulfilling prophecy
26. Ethnocentrism
27. Overjustification
28. Cross cultural studies
29. Social inhibition
30. Social norms
31. Frustration aggression hypothesis
32. Mere exposure effect
33. Central route to persuasion
34. Peripheral route to persuasion

Please define all terms in 5 words, if possible! Also, include the famous psychologists list from the AP Psychology Course Description with the vocabulary terms.

Questions, suggestions, keep me posted, Mary

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