

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) adds a list of psychological perspectives in the field.
- The second bullet point of Practice 3.C (p. 15) adds helpful 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 new approach to part D.
- The Scoring Guidelines for the Evidence-Based Question (EBQ; pp. 174-178) has been updated to reflect scoring practices from the AP Reading:
 - ◆ In parts B(i) and C(i), the word “accurate” and an additional note about how accurate evidence is operationalized 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

- Many resources currently linked in the “Available Resources” callouts in the Course and Exam Description (CED) have been moved from AP Central to AP Classroom or the Online Teacher Community with some older, non-aligned resources removed. The URLs in the CEDs point to AP Central and are thus inoperable. These links in the published CEDs will be updated by summer 2026 with URLs that link to their new location in AP Classroom or the OTC.
- In the summer of 2026, the Course and Exam Description will be updated to reflect revised language around the Progress Checks that appear in AP Classroom. Specifically, the language will be updated as follows: “Progress Checks are now available and editable in the Question Bank. Teachers may use all resources within AP Classroom as they think best, subject to not sharing such materials (digitally or in print) with anyone other than their own students or other authorized educators and not permitting students to remove secure Practice Exam questions from the classroom. Also, AP Classroom materials may not be uploaded to any other platform or website.”