

CLEP Psychology Test Prep Notes

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Introduction:

These notes are what we have used in teaching Psychology CLEP prep classes. We decided to make them available online for you to download. They are intended to assist you in preparing for the CLEP Psychology exam, whether or not you are planning to take a CLEP Prep course. If you are planning to take the course, you will need to bring your set of notes with you to class – and do not do the activities in advance. If you are using these notes to study, we have included some activities for you – so that you will have the opportunity to interact with the information yourself – thus assisting your learning processes. The “answers” can be found on the page following the activity. These notes are not meant to cover every aspect of psychology, but rather form a foundation of study that is based on the outline of exam topics published by The College Board (authors of the CLEP).

About the test . . .

- The Psychology CLEP test costs \$50, plus a possible administration fee imposed by the testing center – usually an additional \$10-25. (These are in addition to fees for CLEP prep classes you may take from David and Laurie Callihan. The test fees are paid directly either to CLEP or your testing center.)
- There are approximately 95 multiple-choice questions to be answered in 90 minutes.
- The CLEP is administered on a computer. It is called a computer-based test (or the CBT) by The College Board.
- The CLEP Psychology exam covers one semester (3 credits) of college introductory psychology.
- Make an appointment to take the CLEP at your local testing center – we suggest that you make an appointment between 2 and 4 weeks after classes or beginning study and focus on studying this subject for that time period. This will give you a goal to work toward instead of putting it off until you “are ready.”
- You must score a 50 to pass. Scores range from 20-80.

- There is no penalty for guessing – so if you don't know the answer to a question, guess. To improve your chances, first eliminate answers that you are sure are incorrect.
- Do not expect to know every item on the test – it is written to cover many different possibilities of curricula and learning methods, so it is unlikely you will know the answer to every question. When you aren't familiar with the material in a question, simply make the most reasonable guess and go on.
- You will find out your score at the end of the testing time.
- CLEP exam credit is accepted at 2900 colleges and universities, check with your college or university for their CLEP acceptance policies.
- For detailed information about CLEP tests – visit www.collegeboard.org/clep.

Steps to Success:

- Attend a CLEP prep class (www.clepclasses.com) if possible, or set up a study plan for yourself.
- Read articles in magazines (Discover magazine is an excellent choice – just choose psychology related articles; Psychology Today may have some pertinent articles).
- Watch the Standard Deviants Psychology tape (by Cerebellum Corporation) available at www.davidandlaurie.com; study material within it.
- Study the “Super Review” Psychology I book (by REA publishers) available at www.davidandlaurie.com.
- Learn concepts within these notes and study vocabulary and diagrams.
- Take practice tests found within the www.collegeboard.org/clep download. Study why the answers that you got right are right and why those you got wrong are wrong!

Introductory Psychology - Description of the Examination (taken from www.collegeboard.org/clep)

The Introductory Psychology examination covers material that is usually taught in a one-semester undergraduate course in introductory psychology. It stresses basic

facts, concepts, and generally accepted principles in the areas listed in the following section.

The examination contains 95 questions to be answered in 90 minutes. Some of these are pretest questions that will not be scored. Any time candidates spend on tutorials and providing personal information is in addition to the actual testing time.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the Introductory Psychology examination require candidates to demonstrate the following abilities:

- Knowledge of terminology, principles, and theory
- Ability to comprehend, evaluate, and analyze problem situations
- Ability to apply knowledge to new situations

What's on the CLEP Psychology exam?

The following two pages outline the topics and concepts that are covered on the CLEP Psychology exam. Each of these topics is covered in these notes in some detail (some more than others, based on percentages of questions for each topic given by The College Board organization).

PSYCHOLOGY

Study of Behavior & Mental Processes

Nature

vs.

Nurture

Biology

Environment

(Nervous system, Endocrine System –
hormones, Senses)

(Upbringing, society, parents,
education, etc.)

Components of Behavior

States of Consciousness

(Attention, Sleep, Hypnosis, Meditation, etc.)

Learning

(Biology of Learning, Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, Cognitive Processes of Learning, Observational learning)

Memory

Encoding (Structural, Phonemic, Semantic, Storage, Retrieval), **Types** (Sensory, Short-Term, Long-Term, Declarative, Procedural & Eidetic Memory, Forgetting)

Motivation

IDA1

Emotion

James-Lange, Canon-Bard, Schacter 2 Factor

Language

phonemes, morphemes, semantics, syntax, grammar, processing, development

Thought

concepts, imagery, reasoning, problem solving, decision-making

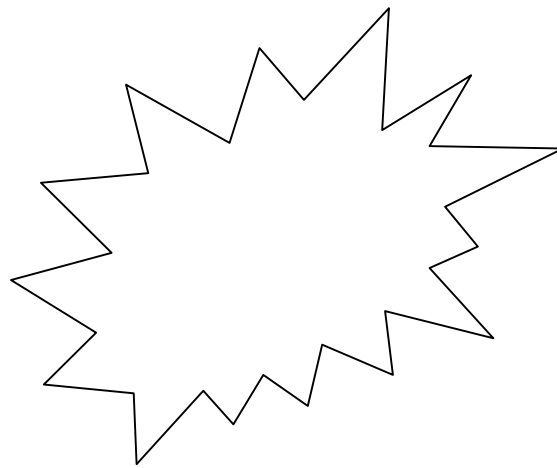
Retrieval Failure – not enough clues to allow for accessing the memory

Consolidation Failure – information is lost before the brain has finished processing it – types of amnesia, or caused by seizure, etc.

Motivated Forgetting – self-protection feature of the brain that hides or removes disturbing and unpleasant memories

Ebbinghaus was first psychological researcher to measure how forgetting occurs

Explaining Behavior through Motivation and Emotion



Theories of Motivation

There are four different theories about what **motivates** a person to behave in a certain manner. [FYI – A **mnemonic** is a tool to help you remember something more easily (ex. ROY G. BIV, etc.) You can use the mnemonic **IDIA** (taking the first letter of each theory) as one idea ;-) of how you can remember the four theories of motivation.] They include:

Instinct Theory – motivation is by an innate fixed behavior pattern, unlearned, applies more to animals – for example we eat when we are hungry

Drive Reduction Theory – behavior is motivated by the desire to reduce a particular drive – we eat to reduce hunger