

| Statewide Dual Credit Learning Objective | |
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| Psychology | |
| Topic 1 | Introduction to Psychology, History, and Approaches |
| 1a | Define psychology and explain its usefulness in today's world. |
| 1b | Recognize crucial historical figures, foci, and periods in psychology's history. |
| 1c | Identify psychology's contemporary foci. |
| 1d | List academic and non-academic career options available to psychologists. |
| Topic 2 | Research |
| 2a | Explain the difference between evidence-based scientific research and intuition/anecdotal experience. |
| 2b | Identify and distinguish between the steps of the scientific method in written accounts of research studies. |
| 2c | Identify and explain the major research designs and approaches in the field of psychology. |
| 2d | Evaluate a research scenario to determine if a potential ethical conflict exists. |
| 2e | Identify and contrast the variables in experiments, such as independent, dependent, and confounding variables. |
| 2f | Define and explain important terminology such as hypothesis, research question, causality, reliability, and validity. |
| Topic 3 | Brain Physiology and Function |
| 3a | Describe how genetics and other biological factors influence human behavior. |
| 3b | List features and functions of central and peripheral nervous system, including somatic, autonomic, sympathetic, parasympathetic systems. |
| 3c | Identify components of brain communication and their functions including neurons and neurotransmitters. |
| 3d | Identify regions and functions of different areas of the brain including the spinal cord, hindbrain, midbrain, forebrain, and hemispheres. |
| 3e | Describe neuroimaging techniques used to study the brain, including EEG, MRI, fMRI, and PET. |
| Topic 4 | Human Development |
| 4a | Differentiate between heredity and environmental factors that influence development. |
| 4b | Compare and contrast the research designs used in developmental psychology. |
| 4c | Identify factors that impact prenatal development. |
| 4d | Summarize and explain the physical, cognitive, and social development during infancy. |
| 4e | Summarize and explain the physical, cognitive, and social development during childhood. |
| 4f | Summarize and explain the physical, cognitive, and social development during adolescence. |
| 4g | Summarize and explain the physical, cognitive, and social development during adulthood. |
| Topic 5 | Sensation and Perception |
| 5a | Compare and contrast the processes of sensation and perception and elaborate on how they interact. |
| 5b | Describe the visual, sensory and auditory systems. |
| 5c | Describe perceptual illusions and the nature of attention. |
| 5d | Explain Gestalt's principles of perception. |
| 5e | Explain how experiences and expectations influence perception. |
| Topic 6 | Memory |
| 6a | Distinguish between sensory, short term and long-term memories. |
| 6b | Describe the information-processing (three-stage) memory model including the duration and capacity of each stage. |
| 6c | Discuss theories of forgetting and explanations for memory failure. |
| 6d | Identify the role of specific structures and areas of the brain in forming and storing memory. |

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| 6e | Describe strategies for improving memory. |
| Topic 7 | Consciousness |
| 7a | Define consciousness and identify, compare, and contrast states of consciousness, including wakefulness, sleep, intoxication, hypnosis, and meditation |
| 7b | Describe the role and interaction of the environment, body, and brain as they contribute to sleep onset, progression, and waking. |
| 7c | Identify, compare, and contrast the role and function of sleep and dreams from different psychological perspectives. (Evolutionary, psychodynamic, cognitive, and neuroscience). |
| 7d | Distinguish between sleep deprivation, sleep problems, sleep disorders as well as interventions and treatments. |
| 7e | Explain how each drug category produces specific effects and recognize symptoms of substance use disorder. |
| Topic 8 | Cognition and Intelligence |
| 8a | Identify and explain the function of cognition and process of concept formation, including prototypes and schemata. |
| 8b | Identify, compare, and contrast theories of intelligence, including Sternberg, Gardner, and Spearman. |
| 8c | Analyze and explain the role of creativity in problem solving, including algorithms, heuristics, mental sets, and pitfalls, including functional fixedness. |
| 8d | Justify and explain variations in intelligence, including heredity vs. environment, and giftedness vs. disability . |
| 8e | Analyze and explain the role of language in cognition, including semantics,, the Sapir–Whorf hypothesis, and concept formation, |
| Topic 10 | Psychological Disorders |
| 10a | Distinguish between atypical thoughts, feelings, and behaviors and a psychological disorder. |
| 10b | Define the concept of comorbidity and how it impacts diagnosis. |
| 10c | Identify the major categories of disorders according to the DSM-5. |
| 10d | Describe perspectives on the origin of psychological disorders. |
| Topic 11 | Therapy and Treatment |
| 11a | Demonstrate an understanding of therapeutic approaches and commonly used techniques including Cognitive, Behavioral, Psychodynamic, and Client-Centered therapies. |
| 11b | Define the various modalities of treatment. |
| 11c | Describe mental health treatment throughout history. |
| 11d | Demonstrate an understanding of effective pairings between therapeutic approaches and commonly seen diagnoses. |
| Topic 12 | Social Psychology |
| 12a | Recognize and apply social psychology constructs, including attribution, conformity, group dynamics, obedience, aggression, prejudice, attraction, and helping behavior. |
| 12b | Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific nature of the study of social psychology. |
| 12c | Demonstrate an understanding of foundational studies such as Milgram’s, Asch’s, and Zimbardo’s. |
| Topic 13 | Motivation and Emotion |
| 13a | Distinguish between intrinsic and extrinsic sources of motivation. |
| 13b | Identify and describe the levels of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs and give examples of each. |
| 13c | Describe how motivation influences eating and sexual behavior. |
| 13d | Describe the main differences between emotions and moods. |
| 13e | Distinguish between the 3 components of emotion: physiological arousal, psychological appraisal, and subjective experiences. |
| Topic 14 | Health Psychology |
| 14a | Trace the history of research findings and methods in the study of stress and health. |

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| 14b | Distinguish between distress and eustress with respect to healthy and unhealthy physical, emotional, and behavioral outcomes and responses to events. |
| 14c | Discuss contributions of positive psychology to our understanding of happiness, life-satisfaction, and well-being. |
| Topic 15 | Learning |
| 15a | Describe, compare, and contrast the general principles of classical conditioning, operant conditioning and observational learning. |
| 15b | Define the key terms of acquisition, extinction, instinct, latent learning, reflex, and shaping. |
| 15c | Match examples of classical conditioning, operant conditioning, or social learning applied to everyday situations with the appropriate technique. |
| 15d | Identify the key differences between reinforcement and punishment. |
| 15e | Distinguish between the various reinforcement schedules (continuous, fixed-interval, fixed-ratio, variable-interval, and variable-ratio). |
| Topic 16 | Personality |
| 16a | Compare and contrast the major theories in understanding personality. |
| 16b | Discuss how a theory interprets/explains personality or predicts behavior. |
| 16c | Identify similarities and differences in objective personality tests and projective personality tests. |