

PSYC 300 – General Principles

Module A Objectives – What is psychology?

Lesson 1 – The origins of psychology.

This information can be found in Chapter 1 – Introduction and Research Methods.

- 1) Explain how the goals of the scientific method guide psychological research.
- 2) Describe the contributions of great philosophers, including Aristotle and René Descartes, and physiologists to the eventual emergence of psychology.
- 3) Discuss the contributions of Wundt, Titchener, James (and his students), Freud, Watson, Pavlov, Skinner, Maslowe, and Rogers to the evolving field of psychology.
- 4) Contrast the major perspectives of contemporary psychology including the biological, psychodynamic, behavioral, humanistic, positive psychology, cognitive, cross-cultural, and evolutionary perspectives.
- 5) Compare values, behaviors, and attitudes of individualistic and collectivistic cultures, as it relates to cross-cultural psychology.
- 6) Differentiate cross-cultural differences in time perspective and communication, as well as the characteristics of “tight” and “loose” cultures.
- 7) Identify the primary roles and functions of 13 different specialty areas in psychology.
- 8) Identify the occupational settings and jobs where you would work for each of the specialty areas of psychology.
- 9) Compare the educational and experiential requirements of a psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, social worker, and paraprofessional counselor.
- 10) Evaluate successful study techniques. [this information can be found at the end of the chapter]
- 11) Explain the *testing* and *fluency effects*, as well as *distributed practice*. [this information can be found at the end of the chapter]

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Module A Objectives – What is psychology?

Lesson 2 –Psychology is a science.

This information can be found in Chapter 1 – Introduction and Research Methods.

- 12) Explain why psychological researchers are guided by assumptions and open-mindedness.
- 13) Describe the each step of the scientific method, including the importance of statistical significance and replication.
- 14) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of descriptive research designs, including naturalistic observation, case studies, and surveys.
- 15) Evaluate the National Survey of Student Engagement's sample in regards to its use of random selection to achieve a representative sample.
- 16) Differentiate between descriptive research and correlational research designs.
- 17) Explain the correlation coefficient.
- 18) Identify examples of positive and negative correlations.
- 19) Explain what makes the experimental research distinct from correlational and descriptive designs.
- 20) Identify the dependent variable, independent variable, control group, and experimental group by reading examples of actual experimental research.
- 21) Discuss random assignment, confounding variables, placebos, and the double-blind technique as important controls to increase the reliability of the experimental research.
- 22) Discuss limitations and variations of experimental research.
- 23) Differentiate positron emission tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and functional MRI.
- 24) Describe the limitations when drawing conclusions from the results of brain imaging studies.
- 25) Discuss the strict code of ethics developed by the American Psychological Association (APA).
- 26) Differentiate between concurrent, content, and predictive validity.
- 27) Differentiate between test-retest, parallel forms, and inter-rater reliability.