

AP Psychology Exam Review Sheet for “Confusing Pairs”

Bottom-up processing (individual elements to whole) v. Top-down processing (whole to the parts)

Agonist (chemicals that mimic the actions of neurotransmitter) v. Antagonist (chemicals that opposes the action of a neurotransmitter)

Foot-in-the-door (start small then go big- \$5 get \$100) v. Door-in-the-face (start big to get small- want skateboard ask for car)

Random Assignment (each participant has equal chance of being placed into any group) v. Random Sample (is the process of choosing the research participants from the population & happens before assignment)

Applied Research (clear, practical use) v. Basic Research (pure science that aims to increase the scientific knowledge base)

Quantitative data (deals with numbers- height, weight, time) v. Qualitative data (deals with descriptions- color, smell, taste)

Self-Serving Bias (tendency to overstate one’s role in a positive venture & underestimate in a failure) v. Self-Fulfilling Prophecies (explains how people’s ideas about others can shape the behavior of those others)

Collectivist cultures (Japan- family, company stressed) v. Individualistic cultures (USA- uniqueness of individual stressed)

Structuralism (school of thought that thought the structure (parts of brain) and elements of immediate, conscious experience to be proper subject matter of psychology- Wundt, Titchener (USA) v. Functionalism (school of thought that tried to understand how& why the mind functions and is related to consciousness- James)

Descriptive Statistics (describe as set of data- central tendency: mean, mode, median) v. Inferential Statistics (is to determine whether or not findings can be applied to the larger population from which the sample was selected: cause and effect)

Syntax (grammar) v. semantics (meaning)

Anterograde amnesia (can’t remember new stuff after head injury) v. Retrograde Amnesia (can’t remember stuff before head injury)

Systematic Desensitization (behavior therapy use to reduce client’s anxiety responses- bad paired with good) v. Aversion Conditioning (therapy)- (behavior therapy in which an aversive stimulus is paired to elicit an undesirable response- bad with bad)

Absolute Threshold (level needed to see it 50% of time) v. Just-noticeable-difference (JND)- (perceive change in stimulus level- music level)

Construct Validity (test measures a particular hypothetical concept- creativity, IQ, extraversion) v. Content Validity (content of a test is representative of the domain it is supposed to cover- stuff on test from that chapter)

Independent Variable (what is tested) v. Dependent Variable (what is measured)

Experimental Group (group that is tested) v. Control Group (compared to the experimental, receives the placebo in a drug experiment).

Left brain (language and logic) v. Right brain (creative and spatial).

Corpus Callosum (divides the brain) v. Cerebral Cortex (covers the brain)

Sympathetic Nervous System (“fight or flight”) v. Parasympathetic (calming – parachute)

Neurotransmitters (in the nervous system) v. Hormones (in the endocrine system)

Lateral Hypothalamus (stimulates hunger) v. Ventromedial Hypothalamus (suppresses hunger)

Broca’s Area (makes words) v. Wernicke’s Area (comprehends words)

Identical Twins (same fertilized egg) v. Fraternal Twins (two separate eggs)

Afferent neurons (sensory, body to brain) v. Efferent neurons (motor, brain to body)

Assimilation (all four-legged animals are “doggies”) v. Accommodation (“doggies” are different than “kitties”)

Concrete operations (logical thinking) v. Formal operations (philosophical thinking)

Sensation (bottom-up processing) v. Perception (top-down processing)

Rods (night vision) v. Cones (color vision)

Classical conditioning (involuntary) v. operant conditioning (voluntary)

Primacy effect (first items remembered) v. Recency effect (last items remembered)

Proactive interference (loss of the new info) v. retroactive interference (loss of the old info)

Implicit memory (non-declarative; skills) v. Explicit memory (declarative, facts)

Recall memory (no cues) v. Recognition memory (some hints)

Algorithms (step-by-step) v. Heuristics (rule-of-thumb)

Representative heuristics (stereotypes) v. Availability heuristics (based on available info)

Phonemes (basic sound units) v. Morphemes (basic units of meaning)

Fluid Intelligence (processing speed) v. Crystallized Intelligence (acquired knowledge)

Validity (test measures what it should) v. Reliability (same scores on a retest)

Achievement test (what you've learned) v. Aptitude test (potential)

Intrinsic motivation (for personal satisfaction) v. Extrinsic motivation (for rewards)

Theory Y (democratic/intrinsic) v. Theory X (rewards or punishment/extrinsic)

Internal locus (you control the environment) v. External locus (environment controls you)

Lithium (treats bi-polar) v. Librium (treats anxiety)

Type A Personality (high stress) v. Type B Personality (low stress)