

# AP Psychology Grade12 (Elective)

## PSYCHOLOGY CURRICULUM

### Unit I: History, Approaches and Research Methods

#### Essential Understanding:

Students develop an understanding of the history of psychology and the different and varied approaches in studying psychology.

#### Essential Question:

How have the elements in psychology evolved?

### Unit II: Biological Basis of Behavior

#### Essential Understanding:

The study of neurotransmitters and their functions along with the endocrine system largely impacts behavior and abilities.

#### Essential Question:

What impact do the different elements of the brain have on behavior and ability?

### Unit III: Developmental Psychology

#### Essential Understanding:

There are a wide range of factors that impact development through the life span.

#### Essential Question:

What are the differences found in theories of developmental psychology?

### Unit IV: States of Consciousness

#### Essential Understanding:

Consciousness can differ widely and be altered by a variety of factors.

#### Essential Question:

What are the factors that can change an individual's abilities to alter their degrees of consciousness

## **Unit V: Sensation & Perception**

### Essential Understanding:

Sensation and Perception is developed in the biological dynamics in the brain.

### Essential Question:

What factors develop and impact and individuals Sensation and Perception

## **Unit VI: Learning**

### Essential Understanding:

Conditioning and learning is impacted by a variety of factors in human development.

### Essential Question:

What factors develop and impact and individuals learning abilities

## **Unit VII: Memory**

### Essential Understanding:

Memory and Brain Function is related to the processing of information and the ability for an individual to organize.

### Essential Question:

What factors develop and impact and individual's abilities in memory

## **Unit VIII: Thinking and Language**

### Essential Understanding:

Language acquisition and cognitive thinking are landmarks of developmental psychology

### Essential Question:

What factors develop and impact and individual's language acquisition and cognitive thinking

## **Unit IX: Motivation and Emotion**

### Essential Understanding:

Motivation and Emotion and integral components to an individual's personal abilities

### Essential Question:

What factors impact and individual's Emotion and Motivation

## **Unit X: Testing and Individual Differences**

### Essential Understanding:

There are varied reports and studies in the area of testing and the validity of testing.

### Essential Question:

What are some of the differences in individuals and how can we test those differences?

## **Unit XI: Personality**

### Essential Understanding:

There are many different theories and impact on the development of personality.

### Essential Question:

What are the elements that impact the development of personality?

## **Unit XII: Abnormal Psychology**

### Essential Understanding:

Abnormal Psychology can be defined as behavioral traits that exist outside of the acceptable norms of society.

### Essential Question:

What are the elements that define people as being abnormal?

## **Unit XIII: Treatment of Psychological Disorders**

### Essential Understanding:

There are many different theories on how to treat people with psychological disorders.

### Essential Question:

What are the elements that impact the treatment of psychological disorders?

## **Unit XIV: Social Psychology**

### Essential Understanding:

Many of the principles of sociology can be applied and useful to the study of psychology.

### Essential Question:

How can the differences of individual personality impact groups of people and their social dynamics?

## **Unit XV: Careers in Psychology**

*(Note: this unit comes after the date of the A.P. Psychology Exam)*

### Essential Understanding:

There are a great variety of careers and fields of study in psychology.

### Essential Question:

What are the opportunities that are presented to individuals who choose to study psychology?