
AP Psychology

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY

2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

Sachio traveled to a prestigious college to audition for a music scholarship. After he arrived he learned that his audition had been rescheduled for late in the day. Sachio was required to play several difficult pieces on his saxophone and interview with the judges. Just before leaving campus he was offered a full scholarship to the college.

Explain how each of the following might have contributed to the success of Sachio's visit:

- Resistance phase of general adaptation syndrome
- Implicit memory
- Social facilitation
- Basilar membrane
- Somatosensory cortex
- Intrinsic motivation
- Big Five personality trait of extraversion

General Considerations

1. Answers must be presented in sentences, and sentences must be cogent enough for the response's meaning to come through. Spelling and grammatical mistakes do not reduce a response's score, but spelling must be close enough that the reader is convinced of the word.
2. Do not score notes made on the question section of the booklet. Score only what has been written in the blanks provided in the booklet.
3. Definitions alone will not score, but they may be used to enhance the application.
4. Within a point, a response will not be penalized for misinformation unless it directly contradicts correct information that would otherwise have scored a point. A correct application with an incorrect definition is not considered a direct contradiction and should score the point.
5. Rubric examples provided for each point are not to be considered exhaustive.
6. A response can score points only if it clearly conveys what part of the question is being answered. It is possible to infer the part of the question being answered if it is consistent with the order of the question.
7. Responses that simply parrot or repeat the terms from the question will not score.
8. In describing how the concept contributed to Sachio's success, responses may pertain to any aspect of the "visit."

Point 1

Resistance phase of general adaptation syndrome:

Responses must indicate how Sachio's heightened or stabilized physiological arousal (e.g., sympathetic nervous system, energy, adrenalin) contributes to a specific successful outcome.

- Score: "Because he was in the resistance phase of the GAS, Sachio's high arousal level enabled him to play well for the judges."
- Do NOT score examples that are not clearly physiological (e.g., nervousness, anxiety).

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Question 2 (continued)

Point 2

Implicit memory:

Responses must explain that Sachio's implicit memory makes his behavior automatic (unconscious, natural, "procedural memory," muscle memory, second nature, doesn't require thinking or focus) in the context of the visit.

- Score: "Because Sachio has practiced the saxophone so much that his songs are in implicit memory, he automatically knows how to play the notes."
- Do NOT score examples that are not clearly implicit (e.g., "he can play well"; "it is easy for him"; "without much effort"; "he memorized it").
- Do NOT score: "He knows how to play the saxophone," because it could be declarative.

Point 3

Social facilitation:

Responses must explain that Sachio will perform better because of the presence of other people (e.g., the judges) in the context of the visit.

- Score: "Sachio played better for the judges than he did when he practiced on his own because of social facilitation."
- Do NOT score responses mentioning task difficulty/novelty without including the presence of other people.

Point 4

Basilar membrane:

Responses must explain the contribution of the basilar membrane to Sachio's sensation or perception of sound (e.g., hearing, pitch, tone, timbre, listening) in the context of the visit.

- Score: "Sachio's basilar membrane will help him hear the interview questions."

Point 5

Somatosensory cortex:

Responses must explain the contribution of the somatosensory cortex to Sachio's sense of touch (e.g., temperature, body position, pressure, texture) in the context of the visit.

- Score: "Sachio played better because his somatosensory cortex allowed him to feel that his fingers were in the right place for the notes he needed to play."
- Do NOT score examples referring to an emotional feeling.

Note: Including other senses (hearing, vision, taste, smell) as being governed by the somatosensory cortex is considered a direct contradiction and will NOT score.

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Question 2 (continued)

Point 6

Intrinsic motivation:

Responses must demonstrate how a specific cognitive or emotional aspect of Sachio's intrinsic motivation (e.g., doing it for pleasure, interest, curiosity, enjoyment, satisfaction, self/himself, its own sake) contributes to a specific successful outcome.

- Score: "Because he is intrinsically motivated, Sachio really likes playing the saxophone, which led him to play well."
- Do NOT score: "Sachio did well in his audition because he wanted to get the scholarship."
- Do NOT score general phrasing such as "inside factor" or "internal motivation."
- Do NOT score examples negating extrinsic motivation alone (e.g., "Sachio is not doing it just to earn the scholarship").
- Do NOT score examples of satisfying a physiological drive.
- Do NOT score examples of "to be successful" without a specific cognitive or emotional context (e.g., "sense of success").

Point 7

Big Five personality trait of extraversion:

Responses must indicate how an aspect of Sachio's extraversion (e.g., being outgoing, sociable, not shy, friendly, draws energy from others) contributes to a specific successful outcome.

- Score: "As an extravert, Sachio's outgoing personality helped him do better in his interview."
- Do NOT score: "Because Sachio is socially skilled, he got the scholarship."
- Do NOT score clear references to other Big Five personality factors (openness, conscientiousness, agreeableness, neuroticism).

ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 2

The resistance phase of general ~~adaptation~~ adaptation syndrome follows alarm, which is a period of level-headedness though physiological stress is still present in the body, detectable by the person or not. Upon being told of his reschedule, Sachio may have entered the alarm phase. However, by the time of his audition, he had reached resistance, experiencing a calm or 'riding the high-line' state, which could be led to his success whilst performing.

Implicit memory ^{includes} memory of skills without conscious ^{work} need to resurface them. Sachio's difficult saxophone pieces, at that time, may have entered his implicit memory, allowing him to seemingly breeze through the saxophone solos without having to work to consciously recall them.

Social facilitation is the tendency to perform better when in the presence of an audience/peers. In the case of Sachio, he was required to perform difficult saxophone pieces and hold an interview with judges. Social facilitation would have contributed to his success and admission to the school by enabling him to give his best performance whilst being watched.

The somatosensory cortex ~~is~~ controls motion and touch senses. In the biological sense, Sachio would have utilized his somatosensory cortex in order to accurately and efficiently play his saxophone solos for the judges.

Intrinsic motivation is when an individual performs a task to reap inner benefits, such as contentment or happiness. Sachio could have rehearsed his saxophone because he enjoys doing it and feels proud of himself and his musical growth, leading to frequent rehearsal and thus, better and more accurate performances which would lead to success.

According to the Big Five trait of extraversion, ~~an~~ individuals who are extraverted are outgoing, find no fear in social interaction nor timidity toward strangers upon meeting. If Sachio was an extravert, he may find little to no discomfort in performing in front of the judges, would speak confidently ~~and~~ in an interview, and would therefore achieve success in his audition.

The basilar membrane is a structure in the ear which absorbs tone and frequency, which

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Question 2 is reprinted for your convenience.

2. Sachio traveled to a prestigious college to audition for a music scholarship. After he arrived, he learned that his audition had been rescheduled for late in the day. Sachio was required to play several difficult pieces on his saxophone and interview with the judges. Just before leaving campus, he was offered a full scholarship to the college.

Explain how each of the following might have contributed to the success of Sachio's visit.

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was no doubt utilized by Sachio during his saxophone solo to detect the accuracy of pitch and tenacity of Sachio's playing. It would have also been utilized by Sachio during his rehearsals, allowing him to practice accurately and detect what may be wrong with his playing before the audition was held to achieve perfection.

ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 2

b) The Resistance phase ~~was~~ of General Adaptation Syndrome would have allowed Sachio to keep his stress levels in check by assuring he would focus on the task at hand, perhaps even better than normally with a healthy amount of managed stress. Implicit or Procedural Memory would allow Sachio to effortlessly coordinate his hands to play ~~notes~~ notes as he read them. Implicit memory is that of stored, non-declarative, memories. Social facilitation, or the ability to perform better in front of a crowd, would have helped Sachio as his performance would have been all the more spectacular. Sachio's Basilar membrane, or the section of his ear responsible for resonating upon hearing a given note, would have allowed ~~for~~ him to play all his notes in tune and well as it must be trained from years as a skilled musician. The Somatosensory Cortex would have been able to interpret the auditory information that would have come as a result of Sachio's music and adjust it accordingly ~~was~~ if it was so needed. Intrinsic Motivation would have allowed Sachio to play well for his own benefit rather than seem as though his only goal was to cause his music to earn him the scholarship. The big five personality trait of Extraversion would have significantly helped Sachio in his interview. By acting more open and social rather than reserved and shy, Sachio was able to seem more likable and answer the questions more readily.

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ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 2

The resistance ~~free~~ phase of the general adaption syndrome can explain why someone at first does not believe in something, in this case Sachio can't believe the reschedule.

In general adaption syndrome, the resistance phase was being felt by Sachio because he just could not believe that it was rescheduled.

Implicit memory is defined as the recall and remembrance of certain information within the brain. In this case, Sachio uses his implicit memory to easily recall the difficult music on his saxophone to impress the college. This memory comes quick to Sachio as he constantly plays the saxophone so when the time of the interview comes, he is ready to play. Social facilitation is defined as the environment around a person to become the normal "everyday" activities that they experience.

Sachio could experience social facilitation while at the college because he gets used to the environment. Sachio will not feel as disconnected from the society around him anymore. Through social facilitation, Sachio can realize the importance of the college he is playing his saxophone for in order to receive a scholarship.

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The Basilar membrane can help Sachio during his performance. The basilar membrane is located in the auditory area with the Cochlea, hammer and drum. The membrane can help feel certain melodies that Sachio plays for the interviewer.

The Somatosensory cortex is defined as the area in which one can associate physical senses through with personal confidence in those senses. Sachio, while playing the saxophone, will need to have confidence in himself. By using the Somatosensory cortex, it allows Sachio to analyze the music he is playing, whether it is up to par ~~or~~ or off a tune.

Intrinsic motivation is the desire and want

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 2

to accomplish a certain goal within the person. Sachio may have strong intrinsic motivational thoughts in order to ace his interview. His motivation may be to get a great scholarship at the prestigious college. Sachio knows himself that the college is superior to most and so he will be motivated to ace his interview through his own thoughts.

The Big Five personality trait of extraversion is creative or outgoing. Sachio, through extraversion, might rely on others thoughts and opinions. After Sachio got his scholarship, he might ask others of what they think of the college. Extraversion relies more on social opinions and ideas than an introverted person. Sachio may also be worried about what others think of his decision. Being^{an} extrovert can determine whether Sachio goes to the college or not.

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Question 2

Overview

This question required students to apply a number of psychological constructs to Sachio’s successful visit to audition for a music scholarship at a prestigious university. These constructs affected his visit in different ways. The resistance phase of the general adaptation syndrome, basilar membrane, and somatosensory cortex all involve some physiological component of his visit. Social facilitation and the Big Five personality trait of extraversion address the social experiences during the visit. Implicit memory and intrinsic motivation are cognitive and emotional factors within Sachio that contributed to the positive outcomes of the visit. Students were required to apply these constructs to the success of the visit in a way that demonstrated their mastery of each concept and their ability to distinguish one concept from another.

Sample: 2A

Score: 7

The response earned point 1 because it describes Sachio’s sustained arousal producing a successful performance. The response earned point 2 because it describes how Sachio is able to play his solo without conscious effort. The response earned point 3 because it describes how the presence of the judges enables Sachio to play his best. The response earned point 4 because it describes the role of the basilar membrane in detecting tone, which would enable Sachio to practice more effectively. The response earned point 5 because it describes how the sense of touch governed by the somatosensory cortex would enable Sachio to play the proper notes in his saxophone solos. The response mentions motion, which is not another sense, but is considered misinformation rather than a direct contradiction. The response earned point 6 because it describes the motivation within Sachio, as opposed to an extrinsic reward, leading to the successful outcome of more accurate performances. The response earned point 7 because it notes that Sachio would feel more comfortable performing before the judges if he possessed an outgoing personality.

Sample: 2B

Score: 4

The response did not earn point 1 because it does not clearly describe a process of physiological arousal that improves his focus; “stress levels” is too likely emotional. The response earned point 2 because it describes procedural memory as leading to effortless playing. The response earned point 3 because it accurately describes the concept of social facilitation, implies that Sachio is in front of a crowd, and as such applies it to superior performance “all the more spectacular.” The response earned point 4 because it describes the role of the basilar membrane in helping Sachio to play the notes in tune. The response did not earn point 5 because it does not note the role of the somatosensory cortex in the sense of touch. The response did not earn point 6 because “for his own benefit” is ambiguous and could refer to external rewards. The response earned point 7 because it links Sachio’s “acting more open and social rather than reserved and shy” to the positive outcome of being perceived as more likeable.

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Question 2 (continued)

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response did not earn point 1 because it does not discuss heightened or sustained physiological arousal in the resistance phase of the GAS. The response did not earn point 2 because it does not discuss implicit memory as an automatic or unconscious form of recall. The response did not earn point 3 because it does not discuss the role of other people's presence in improving performance. The response earned point 4 because it accurately discusses the role of the basilar membrane in Sachio's perception of the melodies he is playing. The response did not earn point 5 because it does not specify the role of the somatosensory cortex in the sense of touch. The response did not earn point 6 because it inaccurately presents intrinsic motivation as the desire to get the scholarship. The response did not earn point 7 because it does not clearly show the contribution of Sachio's outgoing personality to his success.