

2023



AP[®] Psychology

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Free-Response Question 1

- Scoring Guidelines**
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Question 1: Concept Application**7 points****General Considerations**

1. Answers must be cogent enough for the meaning to come through. Spelling and grammatical mistakes do not reduce a score, but spelling must be close enough so that the reader is convinced of the word.
2. A response can earn points only if the student 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.
3. The response must apply the concept to the prompt. A definition alone will not earn the point, but a clear definition can support the application.
4. Examples provided in the Scoring Guidelines for each of the points are not to be considered exhaustive.
5. Within a point, a response will not be penalized for incorrect information unless it *directly contradicts* correct information that would have otherwise earned a point. For example, if a response applies a concept in two contradictory ways (such as identifying both the independent and dependent variables as the independent variable or describing proactive interference as interference from both older and newer information), the point is not earned.

NOTE: In certain cases, a response will not score if it includes a correct answer among multiple incorrect answers related to the same general concept/theory (e.g., a response that describes the Big Five trait of conscientiousness as being diligent, trusting, highly emotional, outgoing, and intellectually curious).

6. Within a bulleted question part, if the response addresses details from a scenario other than the one in the prompt, the point is not earned.

Part A Steve is in the kitchen happily making breakfast for his four children, who are all playing together in the living room. After hearing a loud crash, Steve becomes quite upset and rushes into the living room, where he sees a lamp shattered on the floor. The children are watching television, and no one is trying to clean up the lamp.

Explain how each of the following relates to the scenario.

Soundwave amplitude**1 point**

Response must indicate that relevant to the scenario, a loud sound is associated with high soundwaves, or a soft sound is associated with low soundwaves.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *The height of the soundwaves that were created when the lamp crashed must have been very high because Steve referred to it as loud.*
- *The sound of the lamp crashing was so loud because it had a high amplitude.*
- *Steve did not hear the timer chime because it has low soundwaves, and he almost burned the eggs.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *The crash of the lamp had a high pitch.*
-

Procedural memory**1 point**

Response must indicate that Steve and/or the children remember how to physically do something in the scenario (e.g., making breakfast) without paying conscious attention (e.g., automatically, unconsciously, muscle memory, nondeclarative, well-practiced/learned) to doing so.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *The children have set the breakfast table so much that they do it automatically.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *Steve remembered that the breakfast was cooking, so he had to go in and keep it from burning.*
 - *The kids know they are supposed to take out the plates and then open the cupboard to find juice glasses.*
 - *Steve remembers where the couch is located in the living room so that he does not trip on it as he walks toward the broken lamp.*
-

Diffusion of responsibility**1 point**

Response must indicate that the children do not attempt to clean up the broken lamp because they assume others are likely to do it.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *The children are not cleaning up the lamp because they think someone else will do it.*
- *The younger children assume the older children will clean up the lamp.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *The children don't clean up the lamp because they are not responsible for their actions.*
 - *The children are watching TV, so they don't clean up the lamp.*
 - *The children want to wait until their show is over before they clean up the lamp.*
 - *The dad thinks that all the children are responsible for cleaning up the lamp.*
-

Dispositional attribution**1 point**

Response must indicate that Steve and/or the children overestimated the internal factors influencing their own or someone else's behavior in the scenario.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *Steve decided that his children were clumsy and irresponsible.*
- *Steve concludes that he is a mean person for disciplining his children.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *Steve thought his children were probably just distracted by the TV when the lamp broke.*
-

Ghrelin**1 point**

Response must indicate that for someone in the scenario, ghrelin levels are high when they are hungry or low when they are not hungry.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *While the children waited for breakfast, ghrelin caused feelings of hunger.*
- *Steve was able to lower his ghrelin levels because he ate all the breakfast.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *The children's ghrelin levels were lower because they were hungry.*
-

Part B Instead of asking the children what happened, Steve immediately turns off the television and sends them all outside to rake the large amount of leaves in the backyard. Steve stays irritable for the rest of the day.

Explain how each of the following relates to the scenario.

Authoritarian parenting style

1 point

Response must indicate that Steve is demonstrating a parenting style that includes high control, no discussion of expectations or consequences (one-way communication), or that focuses on obedience and discipline.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *Steve’s parenting style most closely fits authoritarian because he was quick to punish them for the mistake they made (breaking the lamp) by making them stop playing to rake leaves.*
- *Steve was more interested in them following rules than understanding what happened.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *Steve explained to the children why he punished them.*

Steve’s high level of the Big Five trait of neuroticism

1 point

Response must indicate that an enduring characteristic of neuroticism (e.g., depression, negative feelings, anxiety) explains Steve’s behavior in the scenario.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *Steve remains irritable all day and doesn’t seem to recover from this minor event, indicating a lack of stability and high level of neuroticism.*
- *Steve experiences an extreme, negative emotional change throughout the scenario, showing that he is high in neuroticism.*
- *Steve gets overly upset at the sound of the lamp breaking.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *There is evidence that Steve is high in neuroticism because he stays irritable the rest of the day.*
- *Steve is neurotic about his kids and their safety.*
- *Steve is unhappy that the lamp broke.*

Total for question 1 7 points

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1 Question 2



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

Soundwave amplitude is how loud something is. A high amplitude means that it loud, so the sound of a loud crash of the lamp shattering on the floor would have a high soundwave amplitude.

Procedural memory is ~~a type of~~ ^{your} memory of knowledge on basic physical skills. This would apply to Steve making breakfast for his four children. He is able to ~~do~~ cook and make breakfast without remembering how he learned to cook and is able to do a simple task, like cooking.

Diffusion of responsibility might come ~~to play~~ in play with the children cleaning up the shattered lamp of the floor. Steve might ~~disturb~~ spilt up what the children have to clean

Dispositional attribution is when you overestimate a person's personality. Steve might attribute the children as reckless ~~and not~~ instead of seeing from the children's side

Grelin, when your hungry, sends "I'm hungry" signals to your hypothalamus. ~~So~~ So, the reason Steve is making food for his child because they were hungry. The children hunger cells/hormones are sending signals to the hypothalamus to signal that their bodies are hungry.

Page 2

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● Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

Authoritarian ^{is a} parenting style where parents have strict rules that the kids have to obey. This would be Steve making the children take large amounts of leaves outside after turning off the T.V. He doesn't try to work out it with his children and make them realize what they did wrong and how they change ^{from it} Steve has a high level of neuroticism meaning that he is very irritable, anxious, high instability & self-pitying. Since he has a high level of neuroticism he stays irritable for rest of the day rather than ^{stay} calm and talk it out with his children

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Question 1 Question 2

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The soundwave amplitude affects the perceived loudness of any given noise. The crashing noise was described as loud, meaning it had a high amplitude. High amplitude soundwaves can shock or startle many. In this case, Steve noticed the noise because the amplitude was so high.

Procedural memory is the memory of repeating an act based on the stimulus. Steve, being a parent, had his procedural memory triggered by the loud noise. This noise triggered his procedural memory because he feared for his children's safety and immediately went to go check on them. Diffusion of responsibility is the avoidance of blame or fault due to any given reason. The children were all diffusing responsibility because none of them were acknowledging the issue, nor cleaning it up. Dispositional attribution allowed Steve to recognize his children made the noise. He saw his children were the only ones in the room so he attributed the loud crash to one of them. Ghrelin is a hormone that signals your body to eat or desire food. Steve was most likely craving because his four children's bodies had secreted enough ghrelin for them to want food.

Page 2

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Question 1 Question 2



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An Authoritarian parent style can be unreasonable and often irrational. The parent may not act with reason & force the child to do as they say. In this case, Steve forces the children to go outside and complete a task before he even knew who had done it. The way he punished all 4 children without any talking is consistent with this parenting style. Steve shows his high neuroticism because he has no regard for what his children thought of the accident, all that concerned him was how upset he was.

Page 3

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Question 1

Question 2



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

1A) While making breakfast, Steve has grown accustomed to the noise coming from the living room. This is why when he hears the crash, the peaking soundwave ~~attitude~~ amplitude causes his quick alarmed reaction.

- It's in his reflexes to instantly hurry towards the sound to see what happened.
- Being a group of four, it's easy for the kids to not acknowledge the mess at all in attempt to not be the individual responsible. This eases the tension that otherwise would fall all onto one person.
- Steve automatically assumes it's his kids who broke the lamp because they were in the room playing
- Steve's high Ghrelin levels already are making him irritable, as it is breakfast time and he hasn't eaten yet.

B) Steve is using an Authoritarian style of parenting, as he doesn't even consider ~~is~~ hearing what the kids have to say, instead enforcing an irrational punishment.

- Having high neuroticism, Steve is ~~prone~~ prone to outbursts and difficulty managing his anger. This could explain his harsh reaction and irritable mood that stayed the ~~rest~~ rest of the day.

Page 2

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Question 1

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

Responses to this question were expected to demonstrate how specific psychological concepts applied to the scenario. The responses needed to demonstrate an understanding of soundwave amplitude, procedural memory, diffusion of responsibility, dispositional attribution, ghrelin, authoritarian parenting style, and the Big Five trait of neuroticism.

Sample: 1A

Score: 6

The soundwave amplitude point was earned because the response references that the loud crash of the lamp is associated with a high soundwave amplitude. The procedural memory point was earned because the response describes how Steve can make breakfast without needing to remember how he learned to cook. The diffusion of responsibility point was not earned because the response does not show that the children assumed others would likely clean up the broken lamp and, therefore, do not clean up the lamp themselves. The dispositional attribution point was earned because the response describes how Steve identifies an internal factor (recklessness) as the cause of the broken lamp. The ghrelin point was earned because the response identifies the presence of ghrelin that signals to the children that they are hungry. The authoritarian parenting style point was earned because the response describes how Steve has strict rules and emphasizes obedience, evidenced by him punishing the children without trying to understand their perspective on what happened to the lamp. The Big Five trait of neuroticism point was earned because the response describes Steve's anxiety and instability, characteristics of neuroticism, and how they contribute to his irritability throughout the day.

Sample: 1B

Score: 3

The soundwave amplitude point was earned because the response references that the loud crash is associated with a high amplitude. The procedural memory point was not earned because the response does not describe how to physically do something in this scenario without conscious attention. The diffusion of responsibility point was not earned because the response does not show that the children assumed others would likely clean up the broken lamp and, therefore, do not clean up the lamp themselves. The dispositional attribution point was not earned because the response does not describe how Steve or his children identify internal factors as the cause of behavior in the scenario. The ghrelin point was earned because the response identifies the presence of ghrelin that signals to the children that they are hungry. The authoritarian parenting style point was earned because the response describes the ways in which Steve is unreasonable and punishes his children by making them rake, even without knowing how the lamp broke. The Big Five trait of neuroticism point was not earned because the response does not describe how characteristics of neuroticism (e.g., depression, negative feelings, anxiety) explain Steve's behavior, including his remaining irritable throughout the day.

Question 1 (continued)

Sample: 1C

Score: 2

The soundwave amplitude point was not earned because the response does not reference that the loud crash is associated with a high soundwave amplitude. The procedural memory point was not earned because the response does not describe how to physically do something in this scenario without conscious attention. The diffusion of responsibility point was not earned because the response does not demonstrate that the children assume that someone else is likely to clean up the broken lamp. The dispositional attribution point was not earned because the response does not describe how Steve or his children identify internal factors as the cause of a behavior. The ghrelin point was not earned because the response does not specifically associate ghrelin with hunger in the scenario. The authoritarian parenting style point was earned because the response describes one-way communication in that Steve punishes the children without hearing what they have to say. The Big Five trait of neuroticism point was earned because the response describes Steve's inability to manage his anger and proneness to having outbursts, which contribute to his irritability throughout the day.