

2023



AP[®] Psychology

Scoring Guidelines

Set 1

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

Question 2: Research Design**7 points****General Considerations**

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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.

Michael is the regional manager for a car company and needs to give a presentation to the president of the company about how different management styles might relate to the total number of sales of the company's new electric car. He hires an industrial/organizational psychologist to study three stores, each in a different city. Each store's manager has their own distinct management style:

- In Store A, the manager has a supportive style (open and warm).
- In Store B, the manager has a strict style (rigid and severe).
- In Store C, the manager, who is Michael's good friend, has a distant style (permissive and disengaged).

The number of electric cars sold at each store over a five-month period is shown in the table.

	ELECTRIC CARS SOLD BY STORE		
Month	Store A (supportive style)	Store B (strict style)	Store C (distant style)
January	9	7	3
February	7	8	2
March	9	5	5
April	5	3	4
May	5	2	1

Explain why this study is not a true experiment.**1 point**

Response must indicate that this study is not an experiment because the researcher did NOT use random assignment.

OR

Response must indicate that the study did not include the manipulation of a variable.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *The study is not a true experiment because the psychologist did not randomly assign participants to his groups.*
- *The study used stores that already existed instead of manipulating an independent variable.*
- *The independent variable was not manipulated by the researcher in this study.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *Michael didn't use random selection, so his study is not an experiment.*
-

Identify the implied dependent variable for the study if the study had been a true experiment.**1 point**

Response must indicate that the number of cars sold would be the dependent variable.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *The DV would be the number of cars bought by customers.*
- *The DV is cars sold.*
- *The DV is sales.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *The DV would be the stores.*
 - *The DV is cars.*
 - *The DV is leadership style.*
-

Calculate the mean of Store B's sales.**1 point**

Response must indicate that the mean for Store B is 5.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *The mean is five.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

Responses that indicate any other number than 5 or other representation of the number five that is not English/Arabic numerals.

- *The mean is 12.*
-

Explain why the location of the store is a confounding variable in this study.**1 point**

Response must indicate that the location of the store is affecting the dependent variable in some specified way.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *Each management style was also in a different city, and people in each city may have different tastes in items and will purchase things differently.*
- *Cities with more people would most likely sell more units.*
- *Store A is in a higher-income area, so more cars are sold there.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *The location of the stores was confounding because some people couldn't go to all the stores.*
 - *There may not be charging stations in some parts of the city where Store B is located.*
-

Explain how the halo effect could influence Michael's interpretation of the findings.**1 point**

Response must indicate that Michael's previous positive perception of Store C's manager will cause him to think more positively toward Store C's sales data than he otherwise would.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *Michael's good feeling about the manager at Store C will make him think the data for that store are wrong.*
- *Michael is good friends with the manager of Store C, so that causes him to make a positive evaluation of the store's performance.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *Michael views the manager positively, but the data lead him to think he may have chosen a bad manager.*
-

Explain why the hiring of an industrial/organizational psychologist was appropriate for this study.**1 point**

Response must indicate that I/O psychologists are interested in optimizing or improving performance **OR** solving problems in the workplace.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *This study is about which management style leads to the most sales, so an I/O psychologist would be best to help solve this problem.*
- *Michael wants to identify ways to improve managers' performance, and an I/O psychologist can help him with this goal.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *I/O psychologists study the workplace.*
-

Explain how Michael could use positive reinforcement to help him finish his presentation by the deadline. 1 point

Response must indicate Michael could reward himself with something that he likes each time he works on his presentation to make it more likely that he will keep working.

Acceptable explanations include:

- *Michael treats himself to a small piece of candy after he works for 20 minutes to encourage himself to keep working.*

Unacceptable explanations include:

- *Michael is positive with himself about finishing the report on time.*
- *Michael treats himself to candy after working on his presentation.*
- *Michael eats a piece of candy and then begins to work on his presentation.*

Total for question 2 7 points