

What Do You Already Know About Psychology?

AP Psychology · Mr. Cummings · Day 1

This is not graded, and you are not expected to know these. Guessing is fine. Being wrong is the point — we are going to use your answers as data later in this unit.

Directions: Write **T** or **F** in the third column. Then circle how sure you are in the last column: **G** = totally guessing, **S** = fairly sure, **C** = certain. Do not skip the confidence rating — it matters more than the answer.

#	Statement	T or F	How sure?
1.	Students learn best when teaching styles are matched to their specific learning style (visual, auditory, kinesthetic).		G S C
2.	When you are born, your brain already contains all the neurons it will ever have.		G S C
3.	Most humans only use 10% of their brains.		G S C
4.	Most people who are "color blind" see the world in black and white.		G S C
5.	The typical human could see a single candle flame from 30 miles away on a clear, dark night.		G S C
6.	Our brain rests during sleep, causing most brain activity to stop.		G S C
7.	The environments you are exposed to can actually change the way your genes function and express traits.		G S C
8.	Differences between the left and right hemispheres of the brain explain why individual students learn differently.		G S C
9.	There is a close link between genius and severe mental illness.		G S C
10.	When preparing for a test, rereading the chapter is one of the least effective ways to improve retention.		G S C
11.	Eyewitness testimony has been proven to be highly reliable.		G S C
12.	Depression is primarily caused by an imbalance of chemicals in the brain (specifically serotonin).		G S C
13.	If something happens to you at a particular location, you are more likely to remember details of the event if you return to that same location.		G S C
14.	Venting anger — hitting a pillow, yelling, "letting it out" — reduces aggression.		G S C
15.	Alcohol kills brain neurons directly, and that is the main reason heavy drinking damages the brain.		G S C
16.	Statistically, there is a positive correlation between warm but firm parenting and a child's happiness in adulthood.		G S C
17.	Children born blind show noticeably different spontaneous facial expressions of basic emotions (such as fear or joy) than sighted children do.		G S C
18.	Polygraph tests ("lie detectors") are at least 90% accurate at identifying people who are lying.		G S C

#	Statement	T or F	How sure?
19.	Students recall only 10% of what they read.		G S C
20.	Studies comparing identical twins indicate that differences in intelligence are strongly genetic.		G S C
21.	Individuals with schizophrenia have two or more distinctly different personalities.		G S C
22.	For most psychological disorders, placebos ("sugar pills") work just as well as actual medication.		G S C
23.	The more people who witness an emergency, the less likely it is that anyone will actually help.		G S C
24.	Having an infant frequently listen to the music of Mozart increases their IQ later in life.		G S C
25.	The best predictor of long-term romantic relationship success is how similar the two partners are.		G S C
26.	Mr. Cummings has extrasensory perception ("psychic abilities").		G S C

STOP — fill this in during the debrief:

A. Total correct: _____ out of 26

B. Of the items you marked **C (certain)**, how many did you get **wrong**? _____

C. Which single answer surprised you the most, and why?

Hang on to this sheet. We will come back to number B when we get to statistics later in this unit.

Day 1 Closer — Four Questions

AP Psychology · Mr. Cummings · Name: _____ Period: _____

Answer in complete sentences. Turn in before you leave.

1. In your own words, what is psychology?

Look back at what you wrote at the very start of class. What would you change now?

2. You marked several statements "certain" and got some of them wrong. What does that tell you about relying on common sense to understand human behavior?

3. Pick ONE of the "psychic" demonstrations from today. Describe an experiment that would test whether Mr. Cummings actually has ESP. What would you have to control?

4. Two of today's statements had answers that changed once researchers went back and checked more carefully. What does that tell you about how scientific claims should be treated?

Stretch (optional): Suppose we tested whether drinking an energy drink improves quiz scores. What is the independent variable? What is the dependent variable?
