

## **Advanced Placement Psychology Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is AP Psychology?**

The purpose of the AP course in Psychology is to introduce the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Included is a consideration of the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

### **Why should I take AP Psychology?**

Students who understand and are willing to accept that academic classes will become increasingly rigorous through high school and college often take AP classes to prepare themselves for these challenges. AP classes are weighted more than other classes and they look great on college applications if you're willing to put in the necessary work. The AP Exam, taken at the end of the year, offers the opportunity to earn college credit (often worth thousands of dollars in tuition) while still in high school.

### **How much and what type of work will I be doing?**

A 90-minute class typically includes discussion psychology news for about 15 minutes and notes and lecture about a specific topic for about 30 minutes. The remainder of the class is usually spent doing an activity such as class debate, group work or reading discussions.

You should expect to work one-to-two hours each night. Homework typically consists of a reading assignment and a written activity, such as a first-person journal entry or writing sentences that include vocabulary words.

Here is an example of a homework assignment:

Read pages 100-120 in *Critical Thinking in Psychology: Separating Sense from Nonsense*. Write a 250-word analysis comparing the psychological development of infants and toddlers.

### **What are tests and quizzes like?**

You'll have reading quizzes every other class and tests at the end of each unit. The test typically includes multiple choice, matching and an essay question. In mid-May, each student will take the AP Exam.

### **What is the AP Exam?**

The AP Exam is the end-of-course test for AP Psychology. It is administered by the College Board. There are three parts on the AP Psychology exam: a 100-question multiple choice section and two free response questions. The test is approximately two hours long. The multiple choice counts for two-thirds of the final score and the free response questions count for one-third of the score. Scores range from 1 to 5 and students who get a 3, 4, or 5 stand a good chance of receiving college credit for their score.

### **Who can I talk to if I need more information?**

It's likely that some of your friends and acquaintances have taken an AP class before, and talking with them might give you an idea of what's in store. The best way would probably be to speak with Ms. Horton. You can stop by her room in room LC 2 of Warwick High's Campus or e-mail her at [lois.horton@nn.k12.va.us](mailto:lois.horton@nn.k12.va.us). You can also visit the College Board's AP US History website here: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-psychology>.

Information on AP courses was provided by The College Board. See [AP Courses](#) for more information.