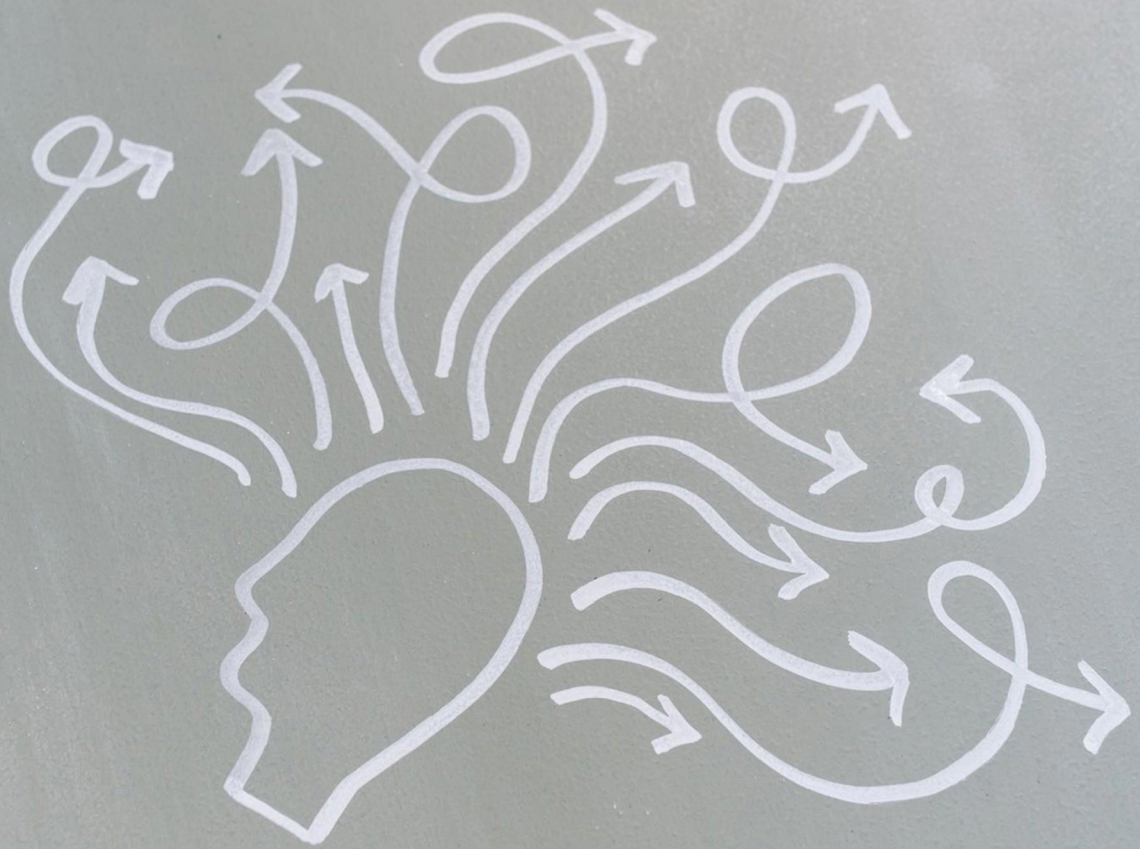


AP PSYCHOLOGY – COMMON PSYCHOLOGY TERMS (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. The tendency to be less likely to help when others are present due to diffusion of responsibility is known as?**
 - A. Executive Functioning
 - B. Circadian Rhythm
 - C. Bystander Effect
 - D. Cognitive Dissonance
- 2. Which bias is the tendency to search for information that confirms our preconceptions and to ignore contradictory evidence?**
 - A. Confirmation Bias
 - B. Representativeness Heuristic
 - C. Availability Heuristic
 - D. Hindsight Bias
- 3. Which term describes a quick, rule-of-thumb problem-solving strategy?**
 - A. Algorithm
 - B. Heuristic
 - C. Insight
 - D. Trial-and-error
- 4. Which term refers to a thought, idea, feeling, or impulse that a person cannot escape?**
 - A. Compulsion
 - B. Impulse
 - C. Obsession
 - D. Delusion
- 5. In language, what is the smallest unit of sound that can distinguish meaning?**
 - A. Phoneme
 - B. Morpheme
 - C. Phonology
 - D. Allophone

- 6. Which term best describes the stage where a child uses two-word phrases to express a complete idea, such as 'mom milk'?**
- A. Monolingual speech
 - B. Holophrase
 - C. Overgeneralization
 - D. Telegraphic speech
- 7. Which retinal receptors detect black, white, and gray and are necessary for peripheral and low-light vision when cones don't respond?**
- A. Rods
 - B. Cones
 - C. Photoreceptors
 - D. Ganglion cells
- 8. Which term means sense of smell?**
- A. Gustation
 - B. Olfactory Sense
 - C. Kinesthesia
 - D. Olfaction
- 9. Which term describes a minor's agreement to participate in a study, acknowledging the study's purpose and the right to withdraw?**
- A. Debriefing
 - B. Informed Consent
 - C. Assent
 - D. Informed Assent
- 10. According to Freud, the underlying meaning of a dream is called what?**
- A. Latent Content
 - B. Manifest Content
 - C. Dreamwork
 - D. Symbolic Content

Answers

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1. C
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. D
7. A
8. D
9. D
10. A

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Explanations

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1. The tendency to be less likely to help when others are present due to diffusion of responsibility is known as?

- A. Executive Functioning
- B. Circadian Rhythm
- C. Bystander Effect**
- D. Cognitive Dissonance

This item tests the bystander effect, the tendency to help less when more people are present. The core idea is diffusion of responsibility: when several witnesses are there, each person feels less personal obligation to act because they assume someone else will intervene. This can be reinforced by ambiguous situations and social cues—if others don't react, a person may interpret the event as non-emergency (pluralistic ignorance). So, a passerby in a busy setting may hesitate to help, waiting to see if someone else will step in. These other terms describe different ideas: executive functioning involves cognitive control and planning; circadian rhythm is about daily biological cycles; cognitive dissonance is the discomfort from holding conflicting beliefs or attitudes and choosing a way to resolve that tension.

2. Which bias is the tendency to search for information that confirms our preconceptions and to ignore contradictory evidence?

- A. Confirmation Bias**
- B. Representativeness Heuristic
- C. Availability Heuristic
- D. Hindsight Bias

Confirmation bias is the tendency to search for information that confirms our preconceptions and to ignore contradictory evidence. This means we actively seek out sources and data that support what we already believe, interpret ambiguous information in a way that reinforces our view, and remember supporting details more readily than those that oppose it. In real life, this shows up when people choose to read articles or consult experts who echo their beliefs, and discount or overlook evidence that challenges them. That focus on confirming what we think is exactly what the prompt describes. The other biases don't fit this pattern. The representativeness heuristic is about judging how likely something is based on how closely it resembles a familiar category, not about seeking confirmatory information. The availability heuristic relies on what's most memorable or easiest to recall to judge frequency or probability. Hindsight bias is the "I knew it all along" feeling after an event, overestimating how predictable the outcome was.

3. Which term describes a quick, rule-of-thumb problem-solving strategy?

- A. Algorithm
- B. Heuristic**
- C. Insight
- D. Trial-and-error

Heuristics are quick, rule-of-thumb problem-solving strategies. They let you make fast judgments by relying on mental shortcuts rather than full analysis. They're efficient and useful in everyday decisions, but they can lead to errors because they sacrifice thoroughness. An algorithm is a precise step-by-step procedure that guarantees a solution; insight is a sudden realization; trial-and-error involves trying multiple options until one works, which can be slow and unreliable. So the term that describes a quick, rule-of-thumb approach is heuristics.

4. Which term refers to a thought, idea, feeling, or impulse that a person cannot escape?

- A. Compulsion
- B. Impulse
- C. Obsession
- D. Delusion

Obsession is a persistent, intrusive thought, image, or urge that a person cannot escape or ignore. This description fits a thought, idea, feeling, or impulse that keeps intruding despite attempts to dismiss it. In contrast, a compulsion is the repetitive action taken to try to relieve the distress caused by the obsession. An impulse is a sudden urge but not necessarily one that is relentless or distressing over time. A delusion is a firmly held false belief that remains despite evidence to the contrary.

5. In language, what is the smallest unit of sound that can distinguish meaning?

- A. Phoneme
- B. Morpheme
- C. Phonology
- D. Allophone

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound that can distinguish meaning. In English, swapping the initial sounds in words like "bat" and "pat" changes the meaning, because /b/ and /p/ are different phonemes. Phonemes are about sound units that create different words, whereas morphemes are the smallest units that carry meaning themselves (like "dog" or the plural suffix "-s"). Phonology is the study of how these sounds are organized in a language, and allophones are variant pronunciations of the same phoneme that don't change meaning.

6. Which term best describes the stage where a child uses two-word phrases to express a complete idea, such as 'mom milk'?

- A. Monolingual speech
- B. Holophrase
- C. Overgeneralization
- D. Telegraphic speech

Telegraphic speech describes the two-word stage in early language development, where a child conveys a meaningful idea using mainly content words and omitting small function words. A two-word phrase like "mom milk" carries a complete message—likely a request or reference to milk from mom—without extra grammar, much like a telegram. This stage follows the earlier holophrase stage, in which a single word stands for a whole thought, and marks the child's shift to combining words to form simple, understandable messages. So, two-word combinations that express a clear idea fit telegraphic speech, whereas holophrase would be one word, and the other terms don't capture this two-word, meaning-rich pattern.

7. Which retinal receptors detect black, white, and gray and are necessary for peripheral and low-light vision when cones don't respond?

- A. Rods**
- B. Cones
- C. Photoreceptors
- D. Ganglion cells

Rods are the retinal receptors that detect black, white, and gray and are essential for peripheral and low-light vision when cones aren't responding. They are extremely sensitive to light and are concentrated in the peripheral retina, which is why you can detect shapes and movement in dim conditions even without color vision. Rods don't color information; they provide grayscale perception, making them crucial for night or low-light viewing. In bright light, cones take over for color and detailed vision, but in dim conditions or toward the edges of your visual field, rods do the job. Photoreceptors is a general term that includes both rods and cones, so it's not specific to this function, and ganglion cells aren't photoreceptors—they're the downstream cells that relay signals to the brain.

8. Which term means sense of smell?

- A. Gustation
- B. Olfactory Sense
- C. Kinesthesia
- D. Olfaction**

Olfaction is the sense of smell, a chemical sense that detects odor molecules in the air. The term that means sense of smell is olfaction. Gustation refers to taste, the other chemical sense we experience on the tongue and in the mouth. Kinesthesia is the sense of body movement and position. Olfaction involves receptors in the nasal cavity sending signals to the brain, including areas linked to memory and emotion, which is why smells can feel particularly evocative.

9. Which term describes a minor's agreement to participate in a study, acknowledging the study's purpose and the right to withdraw?

- A. Debriefing
- B. Informed Consent
- C. Assent
- D. Informed Assent**

Assent from minors, when it is informed, describes the minor's agreement to participate after being told about the study in age-appropriate terms and knowing they can withdraw at any time. This combines a positive, voluntary agreement with information presented to the child so they understand what participation involves and that they have the right to stop. That makes it the best match for describing a minor's consent to participate. Debriefing happens after the study to explain details and outcomes, not at the outset, and informed consent is the guardian's permission, not the minor's agreement.

10. According to Freud, the underlying meaning of a dream is called what?

A. Latent Content

B. Manifest Content

C. Dreamwork

D. Symbolic Content

Freud taught that dreams have a hidden meaning behind what you remember. The underlying meaning is latent content—the hidden wishes, fears, and conflicts that the dream expresses in disguised form. The remembered story is the manifest content, the surface details you recount upon waking. The transformation that turns latent content into that remembered story is dreamwork, the process Freud described with mechanisms like condensation and displacement. So, the term for the hidden, real meaning is latent content.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://appsychcommonterms.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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