

Introduction to Psychology Gold Award Questions

You will need to read the accompanying handout 'Introduction to Psychology' to answer these questions. Use the suggested key terms in your answers.

Studying Psychology

1. How will the SQ3R method help you to master psychology?
2. Why do psychologists use the scientific method?
 - Key terms: psychology, scientific method, theory, hypothesis, replication
3. What are the goals of psychology?
 - Basic research, applied research

Psychology Then and Now

4. What did the early psychologists (Wundt, Titchener and James) contribute to psychology?
 - Key terms: Structuralism, Functionalism
5. What are the major schools of thought/approaches/perspectives in psychology and what do they focus on?
 - Key terms: behaviourism, psychoanalysis, humanistic psychology, cognitive psychology, biological psychology, evolutionary psychology, sociocultural approach, neuroscience, information processing theory, positive psychology
6. What speciality areas exist in psychology?

Thinking about theories and research

7. How do psychologists evaluate theories?
8. How will critical thinking help you evaluate research?

Descriptive Research Methods

9. What are the pros and cons of observational and case studies?
10. How do researchers design useful surveys? (survey, population, sample, representative sample)
11. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the correlational method? (correlational method, correlation coefficient)

The Experimental Method

12. How do researchers use experiments to test causal hypotheses? (experimental method, causal hypothesis, variable, independent variable, dependent variable, experimental group, control group)
13. What are the limitations of the experimental method? (confounding variables, selection bias, random assignment, placebo effect, placebo, experimenter bias, double-blind technique, quasi-experiments, cross-cultural research)

Research Participants

14. How can participants' characteristics influence a study's usefulness? (participant-related bias)
15. How do researchers protect human participants and animal rights?

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

1. Consider three of the major forces in psychology: behaviourism, psychoanalysis, and humanistic psychology. Which appeals to you most and which least, and why?
2. Suppose you hear on the news that a researcher claims to have "proven" that day care is harmful to infants. How could you use what you've learned about research methods to evaluate this statement?
3. Ryan often keeps a game window open when he is doing classwork on his computer so that he can quickly navigate to the game whenever he gets bored. Lately, he has started to wonder whether this is a good idea, as he often finds he has difficulty staying on task. How could he use the steps of the scientific method to determine whether his habit of keeping a game window open while he is doing classwork is responsible for the problems he has with staying on task?
4. Jake has become very anxious ever since he started taking A Levels and has found the classes harder. The school's counsellor diagnosed him with an anxiety disorder. Compare and contrast how the behavioural, humanistic, and cognitive approaches would view the origins and treatment of Jake's anxiety. Then, describe how psychologists view each of the three approaches today.

To answer these questions it may be useful to conduct wider research.