



AP Psychology Womble's Test Tips



1. Don't worry too much. Just prepare wisely. To earn AP college credit, you have to perform like an average college freshman who earns a grade of C. They are not superheroes. Most of them are a lot like you, about one or two years older.
2. ESSAY: Read both questions. Make small marks beside the words or phrases that are easy for you to define or explain. Analyze the question and answer ALL parts.
3. ESSAY: Most of the 12 essay questions in the last 6 years have given you an example of a situation, and then asked you to use 4 or 5 specific psychological concepts to explain or predict what might happen. Break down each question into your own words, and see if the question is about defining and using these psychological concepts.
4. ESSAY: Number each point on the question sheet. There are usually about 10 possible points per question to be awarded by the readers. Use the question sheet to outline your response before you begin writing. Include as many names and lincs terms on your outline so you will include them in your essay.
5. Don't get upset. You don't need a perfect answer. In 1999 students who earned 5 of the 20 free-response points were very likely to earn college credit in psychology.
6. ESSAY: Guessing can't hurt you. If you have some idea, say it. There is no subtraction of points for being wrong on the essay. Be calm, be precise, be swift, but use all the time allowed.
7. ESSAY: No points are ever given for an introduction, preface, summary, or conclusion. Since you have numbered the points to be given, answer only those parts that will earn you points.
8. ESSAY: No points are ever given for a list, a diagram, or an outline. You must use sentences and paragraphs.
9. ESSAY: Answer first the parts you know best. There are no points given or taken away based on the order of your parts in the answer.
10. ESSAY: Relax. You have 50 minutes. As you answer the parts you know best, other thoughts will come to mind. Jot them on the question sheet, and get back to them later.
11. ESSAY: Focus on T.D.A. Use proper scientific psychology Terms. Define your terms (Show you know). Apply to the problem in the question.
12. The "essay" portion of the exam is not testing essay writing. Rather it tests student's ability to answer the question posed. Students do NOT need an introductory paragraph and a summary. They DO need to answer each part of the question clearly and succinctly. They DO NOT need to restate the question.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Essential Knowledge for the AP Exam:



- ✓ Scientific/Research methods
- ✓ History of psychology
- ✓ Significant concepts in psychology (e.g. reinforcement)
- ✓ Landmark research findings (e.g. Asch's work w/conformity)
- ✓ Major issues and themes(nature vs. nurture)
- ✓ Awareness of ethics in research and basic statistics

Womble's Words of Wisdom:

(Or how to write the ideal AP 'free response')

- 1) Thou shalt not write an introductory paragraph or concluding paragraph/statements!
- 2) Thou shalt not be overly concerned with grammar, spelling, etc. it is not graded: psychological knowledge is!
- 3) Thou shalt always write in paragraph format; listing is neither accepted nor appropriate.
- 4) Thou shalt write in black ink. Therefore scratching out misinformation is fully acceptable! An erasable pen is even better!!!
- 5) If thou findeth a contradiction in your free response, leave it—only the correct information will be scored!
- 6) Thou shalt write legibly! If your essay happens to be graded at the end of the day, your free response may not get as correct of reading!
- 7) Thou shalt not use the 'root' word when asked to define a term within your definition. (i.e. "repression is when you repress memories")
- 8) Thou shalt write the entire time and answer all parts of the question.

