

Mr. Perkins AP Psychology Summer Assignment 2026

Welcome to AP Psychology. I am certain you will find this course worthwhile and personally relevant. Although it is the summer, there is some work to be done to prepare us for the upcoming year and for the AP exam that will take place towards the end of the school year.

It is imperative that we get a jump start on the AP Psychology curriculum. It is mandatory to complete the summer assignment. Your summer assignment consists of **THREE** mini-assignments. Each assignment will serve a specific purpose that will assist you throughout the school year and aid in your preparations for May. This assignment should be completed by the first day of class. You will type each assignment on a separate sheet of paper. Your full name, grade level you are in and date needs to be on each sheet. Submit this through google classroom. *The total points for this assignment is 102 points!*

Assignment #1 - Branches of Psychology

Each category is worth 2 points for a total of 42 points for this section.

For each approach listed below, complete the following:

- 1) Describe each approach to psychology.
- 2) List prominent psychologist(s) associated with each approach.
- 3) Provide an example of a famous experiment/study associated with each approach.
 1. Evolutionary
 2. Behavioral
 3. Psychoanalytic/Psychodynamic
 4. Biological
 5. Cognitive
 6. Socio-cultural
 7. Humanistic

Assignment #2 - Outliers

Each question is worth 3 points for a total of 36 points for this section.

Read Chapters 2, 3, and 9 of Malcolm Gladwell's book Outliers and answer the following questions: Here is a link to the book pdf:

https://outliers310-analysis.weebly.com/uploads/3/3/9/3/3393409/ebook_gladwell_malcolm_-_outliers_the_story_of_success.pdf

Chapter Two: The 10,000-Hour Rule.

1. Explain the 10,000 Hour Rule.
2. Gladwell brings up the question of “Is there such a thing as innate talent”? What do you believe about this concept? Where in your life have you thought about this and how it may have been a factor in your own success?
3. Is 10,000 hours really the magic number of greatness?
4. What type of person would be able to fulfill these practice requirements?
5. Do you agree with Gladwell’s theory regarding the Beatles’ success?

Chapter Three: The Trouble With Geniuses, Part 1

1. Describe the difference between ‘divergence testing’ and ‘convergence testing’. Is one more significant than the other?
2. Gladwell states that communities and companies in American society “are convinced that those at the very top of the IQ scale have the greatest potential.” After reading the chapter, explain why you either agree or disagree with this statement.
3. Describe the importance of Affirmative Action at the University of Michigan. What do you feel have been the results of this?
4. What is the significance of test scores vs. quality of student? How does this relate to your own test-taking ability?

Chapter Nine: Marita’s Bargain

1. What are the major differences between Asian and US notions in regards to work ethic as it relates to education in the early 19th century?
2. What is the significance of summer vacation for students in elementary school?
3. In this chapter Gladwell explains how he has found “success follows a predictable course”, what has this course been as it relates to Marita?

Assignment #3 - TED Talks

Each paragraph for the six videos is worth 4 points, for a total of 24 points.

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas in short, powerful talks in 18 minutes or less. TED is an acronym for technology, entertainment, and design. I have gone through the psychology section of TED and found 12 “talks” that could be of interest. Of these twelve you are to watch any **SIX** of your choosing. After listening to these lectures, you will provide a one paragraph summary of each (5 sentences). Feel free to incorporate your opinion of the talk and discuss terms or ideas you found interesting or confounding. www.ted.com

Philip Zimbardo: The Psychology of Evil

Dan Ariely: Are We in Control of Our Own Decisions

Elizabeth Loftus: How Reliable is Your Memory

Susan Cain: Power of Introverts

Emily Esfahani Smith: There's More to Life Than Being Happy

Kang Lee: Can You Really Tell if a Kid is Lying

Angela Lee Duckworth: Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance

Amy Cuddy: Your Body Language May Shape Who You Are

Dan Gilbert: The Surprising Science of Happiness

Pamela Meyer: How to Spot a Liar

Ben Ambridge: 9 Myths about Psychology Debunked

Kelly McGonigal: How to Make Stress Your Friend

Late assignments will be penalized (10% everyday it is late). I look forward to teaching you all next fall. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!