Unit 2 (Modules 4-8) Research Methods: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science

Learning Materials:

1. Textbook
2. Albert
3. Launchpad: (Flip it Video; Flashcards, etc.)
4. Unit 2 PowerPoint
5. Strive for a 5 Packet
6. Various practice/reinforcement activities

Tasks:

Textbook readings, Albert Practice Tests, and Modules will have sequential DUE DATES

1. Read Unit 1 (Modules 4-8) pages 29-74 and complete Module from Unit Packet by....
   - Module 4 and 5: Due Monday, 8/27
   - Module 6: Due Tuesday, 8/28
   - Module 7: Due Thursday 8/30
   - Module 8: Due Tuesday, 9/4
2. Complete Albert: “Research Methods”
3. Various additional practice worksheets
4. Module Quizzes at any appropriate time.

5. Unit 2 Exam: Date: Thursday Sept. 6

From College Board: AP Psychology Learning Standards:

II. Research Methods (8–10%)
Psychology is an empirical discipline. Psychologists develop knowledge by doing research. Research provides guidance for psychologists who develop theories to explain behavior and who apply theories to solve problems in behavior.

AP students in psychology should be able to do the following:

- Differentiate types of research (e.g., experiments, correlational studies, survey research, naturalistic observations, case studies) with regard to purpose, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Describe how research design drives the reasonable conclusions that can be drawn (e.g., experiments are useful for determining cause and effect; the use of experimental controls reduces alternative explanations).
- Identify independent, dependent, confounding, and control variables in experimental designs.
- Distinguish between random assignment of participants to conditions in experiments and random selection of participants, primarily in correlational studies and surveys.
- Predict the validity of behavioral explanations based on the quality of research design (e.g., confounding variables limit confidence in research conclusions).
- Distinguish the purposes of descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.
- Apply basic descriptive statistical concepts, including interpreting and constructing graphs and calculating simple descriptive statistics (e.g., measures of central tendency, standard deviation).
- Discuss the value of reliance on operational definitions and measurement in behavioral research.
- Identify how ethical issues inform and constrain research practices.
- Describe how ethical and legal guidelines (e.g., those provided by the American Psychological Association, federal regulations, local institutional review boards) protect research participants and promote sound ethical practice.

Like all branches of science, psychology depends on research. Assess your understanding of research methods and data analysis, paying special attention to how researchers conduct studies and draw conclusions. Deepen your understanding of the role of ethics in research and learn how methods have evolved since the early days of the discipline.

Experimental Research

Correlational Research

Clinical Research

Statistics

Descriptive

Inferential

Ethics in Research

II. Research Methods ........................................... 8-10%
A. Experimental, Correlational, and Clinical Research
B. Statistics
   1. Descriptive
   2. Inferential
C. Ethics in Research