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# **AP<sup>®</sup> Psychology**

## **2015 Free-Response Questions**

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**2015 AP<sup>®</sup> PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**PSYCHOLOGY**

**SECTION II**

**Time—50 minutes**

**Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$**

**Directions:** You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Researchers conducted a naturalistic study of children between the ages of 5 and 7 years. The researchers visited classrooms during class party celebrations. As a measure of hyperactivity, they recorded the number of times children left their seats. The researchers found a strong positive correlation between sugary snacks offered at the parties and hyperactivity. Based on these findings, the researchers concluded that sugar causes hyperactivity.
  - A. How might the following explain why people may easily accept the conclusion of the study described above?
    - Confirmation bias
    - Availability heuristic
    - Misunderstanding of correlational studies
  - B. As a follow-up study, the researchers are designing an experiment to test whether sugar causes hyperactivity. For the experiment, please do the following.
    - State a possible hypothesis.
    - Operationally define the dependent variable.
    - Describe how random assignment can be achieved.
  - C. Based on the results of the follow-up experiment described in Part B, researchers conclude that sugar does not cause any change in hyperactivity.
    - Draw a correctly labeled bar graph depicting this result.

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2. Chandler and Alex were transferred to a new city and needed to find a new home. They carefully considered every house within their price range and finally purchased one that met all their criteria.

A. Explain how each of the following is related to their decision to buy the home.

- Prefrontal cortex
- Algorithm

One month before the move, Chandler and Alex asked friends to help them organize and pack their belongings. One week before the scheduled moving day, they learned that they needed to move out within 48 hours, so they quickly finished packing.

B. Explain how each of the following concepts could be related to their moving process.

- Social loafing
- Alarm stage of the general adaptation syndrome

C. Provide an example that explains how each of the following concepts could be related to life in their new home and new neighborhood.

- Proactive interference
- Habituation
- Normative social influence

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**