AP Psychology Chapter 04 Essays

1. What is the difference between the absolute threshold and the difference threshold? Give an example of each.

2. It has been argued that behavior is largely influenced by noting that things have changed (e.g., a change in the color of a traffic light from red to green). Difference thresholds have been widely studied. Great contributions have been made by Ernest Weber, Gustav Fechner, and S.S. Stevens. Describe the contributions of each of the three.

3. Humans are heavily dependent on vision. Draw and label the structures of the eye. Start with that point where light first contacts the eye and end with the retina. (There should be 5 parts)

4. We spend a large portion of our day making use of sounds. We can tell when an object is approaching or moving away from us. We can determine or identify what the object is that is producing a sound (e.g., car, phone, man/woman, etc.). To make use of sounds requires a sound sensitive system. Draw the ear, making sure you label each part starting with the first piece of the body that the sound encounters when it makes contact with the body and ending with the cochlea.

5. Some argue that the skin sense is one of the most complex. What are phantom limbs? What is the theory for why they exist? Explain your answer.

6. Define or describe the vestibular sense and kinesthesia. Could you live without either of them? What would you be like? Explain your answer.

7. The Gestalt approach provided a very different alternative to the study of perception. What did the Gestaltists argue? Identify and describe 4 of their laws of perceptual organization.

8. Irving Biederman has a unique theory. What are geons and what is he trying to explain?

9. A professor walks about the classroom as she lectures. How can you see her move. Identify and make use of the two systems for processing movement that were discussed in your textbook.

10. What is the difference between monocular and binocular depth cues? Give examples of each to illustrate your answer.

11. Illusions and perception are a highly debated area within the field of sensation and perception. Two theories exist as to why perception is the way it is. The first is the theory of experience, the second relates to bottom-up and top-down processing. Identify and describe those two theories.

12. Your authors raise the question, ‘How does experience affect certain innate potentials?’ Answer this question by referring to the studies in which:
   a. kittens were allowed only to see either horizontal or vertical stripes
   b. monkeys wore translucent goggles
   c. humans born blind later regained their vision

In short, what were each of these creatures like due to their experiences?