

## Table of Contents

UNIT SYNOPSIS.....	1
ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS AND CONTENT STANDARDS.....	2
ROADMAP.....	3
STANDARD UNPACKING AND PLANNING SPACE.....	17
VOCABULARY GLOSSARY.....	21

## UNIT SYNOPSIS

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. All psychological phenomena studied throughout AP Psychology have a biological basis. Unit 1 focuses on how the functions of our biological systems influence our physical and mental actions and responses. Knowledge of biological functions and mechanisms, especially how neurons communicate, how the brain functions, and how sleep and sensation impact behavior and mental processes, will help students gain a more comprehensive understanding of psychology throughout the course as well as awareness of how all behaviors and mental processes are based in biological operations. For instance, in Unit 2, students will learn that biological mechanisms are vital to memory, and in Unit 5, they will discover that damage to certain biological structures can be the cause of psychological disorders.

**Essential Questions:** Why do we learn biology in a psychology course? How does knowledge of the connection between biological systems and mental processes help us live healthier lives? How much of who you are is determined by what's in your brain?

## ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS AND CONTENT STANDARDS

Below are the standards **taught** and **assessed** in this unit.

### Topic, Enduring Understanding, Learning Objectives (*Students will be able to...*)

#### 1.1 Interaction of Heredity and Environment

- **1.1.A:** Explain the relationship between heredity and environment in shaping behavior and mental processes.

#### 1.2 Overview of the Nervous System

- **1.2.A:** Differentiate among the subsystems of the human nervous system and their functions.

#### 1.3 The Neuron and Neural Firing

- **1.3.A:** Explain how the structures and functions of typical neurons in the central nervous system affect behavior and mental processes.
- **1.3.B:** Explain how the basic process of neural transmission is related to behavior and mental processes.
- **1.3.C:** Explain how psychoactive drugs affect behavior and mental processes.

#### 1.4 The Brain

- **1.4.A:** Explain how the structures and functions of the brain apply to behavior and mental processes.

#### 1.5 Sleep

- **1.5.A:** Explain how the sleep/wake cycle affects behavior and mental processes throughout the day and night.

#### 1.6 Sensation

- **1.6.A:** Explain how the process of sensation is related to behavior and mental processes.
- **1.6.B:** Explain how the structures and functions of the visual sensory system relate to behavior and mental processes.
- **1.6.C:** Explain how the structures and functions of the auditory sensory system relate to behavior and mental processes.
- **1.6.D:** Explain how the structures and functions of the chemical sensory systems relate to behavior and mental processes.
- **1.6.E:** Explain how the structures and functions of the touch sensory system relate to behavior and mental processes.
- **1.6.F:** Explain how the structures and functions of the pain sensory system relate to behavior and mental processes.
- **1.6.G:** Explain how the structures and functions that maintain balance (vestibular) and body movement (kinesthetic) relate to behavior and mental processes.