
Social Studies: Psychology

Psychology

This course provides students the opportunity to explore psychology as the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. Areas of study include the scientific method, development, cognition, personality, assessment and mental health, and the socio-cultural and biological bases of behavior.

Social Studies Content Standards (SS):

Statements of what students should know and be able to do in a specific social studies course. The standards provide a clear outline of content so that teachers can develop and align curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Components under each standard describe knowledge or skills and serve as progress indicators for gauging student's achievement of each standard

- Standard: PSS1: Students will understand the development of psychology as a science by analyzing its historical development, research, strategies, philosophical approaches and identifying ethical issues.**
- Components:**
- PSS1.a:** Describe the contributions of individuals of historical significance to the field of Psychology.
 - PSS1.b:** Explain the present day approaches to the field of psychology and how each can be applied to analyze behaviors.
 - PSS1.c:** Compare the key concepts in experimental research.
 - PSS1.d:** Provide examples of methods used to study human behaviors (field studies, Surveys, Naturalistic Observational, Interviews, Case Studies, Psychological Tests, Longitudinal and Cross-Sectional Studies).
 - PSS1.e:** Examine the Code of Ethics of Psychological research on animal and human experimentation
- Standard: PSS2: Students will explain developmental patterns in humans.**
- Components:**
- PSS2.a:** Differentiate between the nature versus nurture explanations of human development.
 - PSS2.b:** Describe the developmental patterns in children such as maturation processes, growth cycles, and critical periods.
 - PSS2.c:** Identify the effects of families on the development of children.
 - PSS2.d:** Compare the different ways people develop including physical, social, moral, cognitive, and language development.
 - PSS2.e:** Summarizer the theories of Piaget, Erikson, and Kohlberg regarding human development.
 - PSS2.f:** Describe the physical changes and psychological issues faced by adolescents.
 - PSS2.g:** Describe the psychological developments of adults and the aged.

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PSS2.h: Examine the differences between the two genders, and how gender roles are shaped by society.

Standard: **PSS3:** **Students will investigate the structure, biochemistry and circuitry of the brain and nervous system to understand their roles in affecting behavior, including the ability to distinguish between sensation and perception.**

- Components:** **PSS3.a:** Identify the different parts of the brain articulating the function of each.
- PSS3.b:** Compare and contrast the influences of the left and right hemispheres on the function of the brain.
- PSS3.c:** Outline the structures and processes that allow nerve cells to communicate with each other in the brain.
- PSS3.d:** Identify the major divisions and subdivisions of the nervous system.
- PSS3.e:** Understand the structure and function of the endocrine system.
- PSS3.f:** Identify the physical structures and the function of each that allow humans to receive and process visual, auditory, olfactory and taste sensations.
- PSS3.g:** Evaluate the effectiveness of different treatment options for mental illness.

Standard: **PSS4:** **Students will recognize that personality is a relatively stable pattern of behaviors, thoughts, motives and emotions that characterize the individual.**

- Components:** **PSS4.a:** Compare and contrast the varying theories on personality formation and personality traits.
- PSS4.b:** Discuss how personality tests are constructed.
- PSS4.c:** Describe different types of tests used to assess personality and the ethical parameters that they should follow.
- PSS4.d:** Define frustration, conflict and stress and describe their impact on individuals and their personalities.
- PSS4.e:** Explain psychological defense mechanisms.
- PSS4.f:** Analyze the components of a mentally healthy life style.

Standard: **PSS5:** **Students will understand how organisms adapt to their environment through learning, information processing and memory.**

- Components:** **PSS5.a:** Analyze the different factors that affect the acquisition, processing, retention of information

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- PSS5.b:** Define learning, including operant, classical, cognitive and social learning.
- PSS5.c:** Identify the brain structures related to memory.
- PSS5.d:** Examine the roles of reinforcement and punishment as ways of understanding and modifying behavior.
- PSS5.e:** Compare and contrast Social and Cognitive learning
- PSS5.f:** Demonstrate knowledge on how humans acquire, process and store information.
- PSS5.g:** Define intelligence and describe different methods of assessing it.
- PSS5.h:** Critique the use and application of intelligence tests.
- PSS5.i:** Compare the different levels of intelligence describing the characteristics of individuals at each level
- PSS5.j:** Define creativity, explain how it is assessed and describe The characteristics of creative individuals

Standard: **PSS6: Students will understand the causes and attributes of different mental disorders and the varying treatment options available to assist those who are afflicted.**

- Components:** **PSS6.a:** Describe factors determined to be caused of mental disorders and indications that an individual's behaviors is abnormal.
- PSS6.b:** Identify and illustrate the characteristics of different mental disorders (as identified in the DSM IV) in the following categories: Disorders of Childhood Anxiety Disorders, Somatoform Disorders, Dissociative Disorders, Mood Disorders, Psychotic Disorders and Personality Disorders.
- PSS6.c:** Compare and contrast the following methods of treatment of mental illnesses: Psychoanalytic Treatment, Humanistic Treatment, Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Group Therapy and Biomedical treatments.
- PSS6.d:** Evaluate the effectiveness of different treatment options of mental illness.

Standard: **PSS7: Students will understand the different psychological and physiological factors that affect human motivation and emotion, while investigating the concept of human consciousness.**

- PSS7.a:** Describe how structures within the brain and glandular systems affect human motivation and emotion.
- PSS7.b:** List and describe the different needs humans have that are necessary for survival and not necessary for survival explaining their impact on human motivation

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- PSS7.c:** Explain Maslow's hierarchy of needs.
- PSS7.d:** Identify and explain psychological causes of motivation
- PSS7.e:** Compare and contrast various theories of emotion.
- PSS7.f:** Discuss the varying levels of consciousness and evaluate the unseen forces that affect them.
- PSS7.g:** Analyze the nature of sleep and the psychological explanation of dreams.
- Standard: PSS8:** **Students will understand the socio-cultural dimensions of behavior including topics such as conformity, obedience, perception, attitudes and the influences of the group on the individual.**
- PSS8.a:** Discuss how attribution theory shapes social interaction.
- PSS8.b:** State how different kinds of physical attractiveness can influence perceptions of other personal characteristics.
- PSS8.c:** Describe the different influences that affect individual's levels of aggression and violence.
- PSS8.d:** Evaluate the factors that impact an individual's willingness to help others in need.
- PSS8.e:** Assess the impact of culture and groups on attitudes and beliefs.
- PSS8.f:** Define stereotypes and explain how they can lead to prejudice and discrimination.
- PSS8.g:** Explain different methods used to persuade as well as defenses against it.