**Tips for Multiple-Choice On the AP Psychology Exam**

**100 questions/70 minutes**

1. There is no longer a penalty for the multiple-choice section; it is to your advantage to guess on all questions. If you do not guess, there is no potential for earning the point.
2. Try to use process of elimination in narrowing down options.
3. You will not see questions with the response “all of the above”, “none of the above” or all of the following are true “except”.
4. Try to treat a multiple choice question as if it were a free response, in this case if your answer appears once you look at the options you will not be drawn to distracters.

**Tips for the Free-Response section**

**2 questions/50 minutes**

1. As you read through the prompt underline action words in the question. This will help you to understand precisely what you are being asked to do in the question. If you are asked to define and provide an example related to the prompt for five terms, this would be a 10-point question.

2.Take the time to write a brief outline to be sure that you only answer the question being asked.

3. Do not write an introduction or a conclusion. This is a free response question rather than an essay; they are not necessary and will take time that you could be spending on other parts of the question for which you can earn points.

4. You need not have five sentences to a paragraph. Try to create a separate paragraph for each section of the question. Think of each bullet point, as it’s own distinct “mini-free-response”.

5. If possible, try to answer the question in the order which it was asked, this will help both you and the reader stay on track.

6. If you do not know the answer to part of a question, skip it a move on rather than waste time on points you are not likely to earn.

7. Be sure to relate all examples back to the prompt provided in the question. If you have a great example but it does not relate to the prompt you will not receive any points. The point of this is to relate your knowledge to a novel situation rather than one you have already practiced.

8. Do not worry if you do not know one section of the response, some years a very good essay only scores about 70% correct, so do not think of the grading in terms of normal grading practices, in this case you are compared to all other test takers and then the grade distribution is determined (norm-referenced testing).

9. It is a good idea (but not necessary) to underline key words that you would like to emphasize. Think of buzzwords, such as UCS “automatically causes a response”.

10. Use as much of your psychology vocabulary as possible to show that you know your terminology.

11. Even if you are not asked for a definition provide one if you have time. If your example is vague this will demonstrate that you know the concept and help to earn your point.

12. Expect at least one essay to cover multiple chapters with a link between them in the prompt. Experimental design had been frequent over the years so be prepared for this a portion of one of the essays.