

UNIT 4: SENSATION & PERCEPTION

- Sensation
- Sensory Receptors
- Perception
- Bottom-up processing
- Top-down processing
- Selective attention
- Inattentional blindness
- Change blindness
- Transduction
- Psychophysics
- Absolute threshold
- Signal detection theory
- Subliminal
- Difference threshold
- Priming
- Weber's law
- Sensory adaptation
- Perceptual set
- Extrasensory perception (ESP)
- Parapsychology
- Wavelength
- Hue
- Intensity
- Cornea
- Pupil
- Iris
- Lens
- Retina
- Accommodation
- Rods
- Cones
- Optic nerve
- Blind spot
- Fovea
- Young-Helmholtz trichromatic (three-color) theory
- Opponent-process theory
- Feature detectors
- Parallel processing
- Gestalt
- Figure-ground
- Grouping
- Depth perception
- Visual cliff
- Binocular cue
- Retinal disparity
- Monocular cue
- Phi phenomenon
- Perceptual constancy
- Color constancy
- Perceptual adaptation
- Audition
- Frequency
- Pitch
- Middle ear
- Cochlea
- Inner ear
- Sensorineural hearing loss
- Conduction hearing loss
- Cochlear implant
- Place theory
- Frequency theory
- Gate-control theory
- Olfaction
- Kinesthesia
- Vestibular sense
- Sensory interaction
- Embodied cognition

Write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1. What is prosopagnosia? Is it an issue with the *senses* or *perception*?

2. What three examples from the animal kingdom does Myers give to explain how senses are adapted to help with survival in their environments?

Module 16

3. What is the difference between sensation and perception?

4. What metaphor does Myers use to explain selective attention?

5. What does the *cocktail party effect* refer to?

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6. How much information is estimated to be brought in from your five senses every second? How much can the brain actually process?

7. What two experiments have been used to demonstrate selective inattention?

8. Describe the details of Petter Johansson's 2005 experiment designed to demonstrate *change blindness*.

9. What variables will affect absolute thresholds (whether or not you would detect sensory data)?

10. How does our psychological state affect signal detection (i.e. combat situation, exhaustion, etc.)?

11. Give some examples of *signal detection theory*.

12. In your opinion, do you believe subliminal messages work? Why or why not?

13. What is the other term used for *difference thresholds*? Give one example of difference thresholds being used in your own daily experiences.

14. What example does Myers give to demonstrate Weber's Law?

Module 17

15. Give two examples of a perceptual set.

16. What does Myers explain determines our perceptual set? Is this the result of "top-down" or "bottom-up" processing? _____

17. How can our emotional state affect our motivation?

18. What is the difference between ESP and parapsychology?

19. Why is it problematic to suggest that experiments and studies have shown strong evidence to support that ESP actually does exist? _____

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Module 18

20. What is *transduction*?

21. What is the scientific explanation for how we “see” color?

22. What are the two physical characteristics of light that help determine our sensory experience of them? _____
23. In what order does light pass through the anatomy of the eye (*this will be important for future test questions*)? _____
24. Explain why the retina doesn’t “see” a whole image?

25. What is the optic nerve made up of?

26. How is the function of *cones* in the eye different from that of the function of *rods*?

27. Why does the eye have a blind spot?

28. How does the Young-Helmholtz theory explain how the brain creates color from light?

29. What are “opponent colors”? How do they affect “afterimages”?

30. What are *feature detectors* and in what lobes are they located?

31. How can parallel processing be tested in patients with “blindsight” (localized blindness)?

32. Copy a version of the explanation of visual information processing in Figure 18.12.

Module 19

33. How does gestalt psychology help to explain the brain’s tendency to perceive more than it senses?

34. Why is figure-ground necessary in our perception of sights?

35. What are the three examples of *grouping* listed in the text? _____

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36. How did a Cornell experiment with 6-14-month-old babies help to disprove the notion that babies did not have depth perception?

37. Why does proper judgement of sights require monocular cues AND binocular cues?

38. How does perceptual constancy help to explain optical illusions?

39. What is the term used to describe how humans' sight perception adjusts to "normal" even in distorted or inverted images? _____

Module 20

40. How does the brain convert sound energy into neural messages? _____

41. What is the function of the cochlea? What kind of signals does it send?

42. What is the difference between sensorineural hearing loss and conduction hearing loss?

43. How does a cochlear implant create hearing in patients with sensorineural hearing loss?

44. Why do you suppose the use of cochlear implants in children is controversial in the deaf community? _____

Module 21

45. What are the four basic skin sensations (for touch)? _____

46. What is the neurological explanation for pain? What is the name for the pain-sensing nerves in the body? _____

47. What would be the biological (and maybe evolutionary) purpose for the body's use of *gate-control theory*? _____

48. Name a few of the various ways that physicians and psychologists treat pain.

49. What is the biological term for the sense of taste? What is the evolutionary explanation for enjoyable and aversive tastes? _____

50. How does sensory interaction explain the link between smell and taste (and in some cases sight and taste)? _____

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51. What is the name for the receptor cells responsible for smell? Explain the chemical process that creates smell.

52. Why are smells able to bypass the thalamus, unlike the other four senses? _____

53. Why is the sense of smell explained to be so closely tied to memory? _____

54. What is the difference between your brain's use of *kinesthesia* and *vestibular sense*?

55. (Enter *Febreze* nose-blindness commercial) What is the *nervous* explanation for sensory adaptation (why does it happen)? Why do odors fade from our awareness but not sights?
