

What To Expect On Test Day

The ETS™ National Certification Graduate Records Examination (GRE®) Psychology Test consists of approximately 215 multiple-choice questions followed by 5 options to select your answer. You will have 2 hours and 50 minutes within which to complete the exam. The test is paper-based, not computerized as some other licensing exams. Since the GRE® Psychology Test is only offered three times in a given year, you will need to do your research. Find out the scheduled dates, locate the cities sponsoring the exams and set up your personal schedule so you can attend without worries.

Test content material covers a broad scope of undergraduate information for the practice of Psychology. Areas address the three categories set out by the ETS™:

1. Experimental or Natural Science involves:

- Learning
- Language
- Memory
- Cognition
- Perception
- Ethology
- Comparative Psychology
- Sensation and Physiological Psychology

2. Social Science includes:

- Clinical Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Personality
- Social Psychology
- Learning and cognitive issues
- Language and memory

3. General Topics covers such items as:

History of Psychology

Applied Psychology,

Measurement

Research Design

Statistics

With the GRE® Psychology Test covering such broad strokes in psychology, you can expect to see information you might not know well. Don't blow a gasket. Test Scores are based on how many correctly answered questions minus one-fourth of your incorrect answers. The question is, whether or not to guess and chance getting something wrong hurting that average. The best advice is to guess only if you believe you think you know the correct answer. Make sure you've eliminated any wrong answers helping out your odds. In the case of questions that are total Greek to you, pass them up! Move on to the next question and never look back.

The case studies are the most difficult type of questions on the examination. They're long, involved and many times include extra information you don't need for answering the question. These are the questions that require the ability to analyze, synthesize and evaluate. They can be divided into two different types of case study questions: APPLICATION and REASONING. These will require significant work during your subscription time with us. You will need to develop a cognitive map to address these types of questions to make sure you won't have to take the exam a second or even third time.

Everything that's written in the case study is **true**. There will be no deceptions or setups. If it says "Sally is a single parent with eight kids whose husband just died, and she's doing well as are the kids", then this is a **true statement**. Sally IS NOT in denial but is doing well as stated in the case study.

Don't infer or add anything into a question that is not specified. This confuses the issue and might lead you down a wrong road. For example, if the question talks about an unemployed worker, if it doesn't specify what type of job, don't make assumptions. Being an unemployed steel worker is totally different than being an unemployed actor.

A **Memorization** question asks for **factual information**. Usually, this is a simple question without a case study, though occasionally the question associated with a case study will be asking for factual information. The case study may have many twists and turns, but in the final analysis, the case study will ask for a cognitive answer based on your ability to recall only the facts.

An **Application** case study is more complicated than strictly memorization. They apply the "meat and potatoes" - procedures, theoretical models and concepts TO the specific case study presented. They require the ability to **analyze**. How do you analyze a case study?

- **Behaviors:** Determine the behavior the client is exhibiting. (How are they acting?)
- **Factors:** Identify contributing factors responsible for the client's actions or primary problem.
- **Concepts:** What procedures, concepts, legal issues, theoretical models or ethical considerations will determine your interactions with the client?
- **Actions:** What should your actions be taking into consideration: **Concepts, Behaviors and Factors?**

This type of case study will ask you to take an action. It will be in the format of: "WHAT SHOULD YOU DO FIRST?"

A **Reasoning** case study will require **analysis, synthesis and evaluation**. In the end, they will usually ask for a "thinking answer" rather than a doing answer. You will be required to make a judgment or evaluation. They will usually be in the form of: "What is the (MOST or LEAST) LIKELY, SIGNIFICANT, INSIGNIFICANT, IMPORTANT, APPROPRIATE?" "What PRIORITY?" "What is the BEST?"