STUDY GUIDE: UNIT IV – SENSATION and PERCEPTION
AP Psychology

In addition to the information in this study guide, you are also responsible for all of the content in textbook (Modules 16-21), all information from class notes/discussions, all handouts and graphic organizers.
It’s AP – it’s all fair game 😊

Terms & Concepts
All Key Terms & Concepts to Remember on page 214 (Modules 16-21)

Module 16
16-1: What are sensation and perception? What do we mean by bottom-up and top-down processing?
16-2: How much information do we consciously attend to at once?
✓ Selective attention
✓ Selective inattention
✓ Multitasking vs. serial tasking
16-3: What 3 steps are basic to all our sensory systems?
16-4: What are absolute and difference thresholds, and do stimuli below the absolute threshold have any influence?
✓ Signal detection theory
✓ Subliminal stimuli
✓ Weber’s Law
16-5: What is the function of sensory adaptation?
✓ Sensory adaptation
✓ Selective attention

Module 17
17-1: How do our expectations, contexts, and emotions influence our perceptions?
✓ Perceptual set
✓ Context effects
✓ Cultural context
17-2: What are the claims of ESP, and what have most research psychologists concluded after putting these claims to the test?

Module 18
18-1: What is the energy that we see as visible light?
✓ Transduction
✓ Wavelength
✓ Intensity
✓ Diagram of eye & retina
✓ Rods & cones; fovea
18-2: How do the eye and the brain process visual information?
Feature detectors
Parallel processing/Visual information processing

18-3: What theories help us understand color vision?
- Young-Helmholtz trichromatic theory
- Color blindness & opponent colors

Module 19
19-1: How did the Gestalt psychologists understand perceptual organization, and how do figure-ground and grouping principles contribute to our perceptions?
- Form perception & grouping

19-2: How do we see the world in three dimensions and perceive motion?
- Depth perception & visual cliff
- Binocular & monocular cues
- Phi phenomenon

19-3: How do perceptual constancies help us organize our sensations into meaningful perceptions?
- Perceptual constancy, color constancy, size-distance relationship, lightness constancy
- Ames room

19-4: What does research on sensory restriction and restored vision reveal about the effects of experience?
- Perceptual interpretation (Molyneux & Locke)
- Perceptual adaptation

Module 20
20-1: What are the characteristics of air pressure waves that we hear as sound, and how does the ear transform sound energy into neural messages?
- Frequency & intensity
- Middle ear, cochlea, inner ear
- Conduction hearing loss
- Sensorineural hearing loss
- Cochlear implants – why the controversy?
- Intensity/loudness

20-2: What theories help us understand pitch perception?
- Frequency theory
- Place theory

20-3: How do we locate sounds?

Module 21
21-1: How do we sense touch?
21-2: How can we best understand and control pain?
- Gate control theory & biopsychosocial influences
- Pain control

21-3: How do we experience taste and smell?
21-4: How do we sense our body’s position and movement?
- Kinesthesis & vestibular sense

21-5: How do our senses interact?
- Sensory interaction
- Embodied cognition