

Section II

Time—50 minutes

Directions: Take approximately 50 minutes to answer *both* of the essay questions. According to the College Board directions, “It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the question posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.” Write your essays on separate sheets of paper.

Essay 1:

Although historically nature versus nurture was considered an all-or-none proposition, most psychologists today agree that heredity and environment are both important in determining behavior and mental processes. Describe the extent to which heredity and the extent to which environment affect expression of each of the following:

- shyness
- language acquisition
- phenylketonuria
- violent behavior
- schizophrenia

Essay 2:

Yesterday when a brown bear unexpectedly appeared in his backyard, John ran into his house faster than he ever ran before.

- a. Describe how John’s eye and brain enabled him to see the bear. In your description include how the eye focused the image, transduced energy, and transmitted information to the brain; identify the parts of the brain involved.
- b. Explain how the “fight-or-flight” response enabled John to run faster than ever before.
- c. Using a current theory of emotion, account for why John experienced fear rather than anger or sadness.

END PRACTICE EXAM