

I have compiled a list of the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) or most Frequently Offered Complaints (FOQs) from the Introductory Psychology series (1020 & 1030). In addition to the FAQs and FOCs, I have included my answers. (So kind of me, huh?)

**1. This is the only class in which I'm getting a [B,C,D] in.**

Not surprising as Psychology can be more difficult than some think it is. I'd ask you to take a look at this class and your other classes. What do you see as the main difference between Introductory Psychology and the other courses? Do you prepare in the same way for all? Do you have the same kind of preparation for all of them? Do you need to prepare differently for this class? What are some things you can do to improve your performance in this class?

**2. I was talking to a student who got a D on your last test. [He/She] doesn't look like a D-student to me.**

Oh, really? What does a D-student look like? I have never seen one. Okay, so I'm being a bit facetious here. Why do you think that student received a D on the exam? Did he/she study? Did he/she study the correct material? What do you think you can do in order to avoid that fate?

**3. When are we going to talk about [mental problems/mental disorders/crazy people]?**

Be patient; I cover this material later in the semester. But, remember, Psychology is about so much more than just crazy people. It includes development, intelligence, how we get along with others, sensation, perception, statistics. There is something for everyone. Still and all, I know that many people think "crazy people" when they think of Psychology, so I do try to work in clinical examples throughout each chapter, when appropriate.

**4. Why do you spend so much time talking about biology?**

That is where it starts. Biology is not the end, but is the beginning of our understanding of psychology. In fact, Psychology began as a combination of Physiology and Philosophy, and we should not lose sight of our heritage. Besides, whether or not you agree, much of the world is looking for biological explanations of human behavior and if you want to be ready to talk with other people about advances in our understanding of behavior, you'd better have some understanding of the underlying biology.

**5. Why do we spend so much time on Freud if his ideas were so crackpot?**

I believe Freud is a very important individual in the field of Psychology. Freud is the beginning of clinical psychology. Additionally, when non-psychologists think of people in the field, it is Freud they think of first. Second, Freud's theories are very complicated and easily confused (you can see that in any layperson's writing about Freud) and, therefore, need to be explained carefully. Even if you don't agree with Freud (and I say especially if you don't agree with him--how can you disagree if you do not understand the theory), you will need to understand his theories, if only to dispute with the multitude of neo-Freudians (or psychodynamically-oriented folks) who are out there.

**6. I can't understand [the book/your lectures/your test questions]!**

Why not? And, more importantly, why didn't you speak up sooner? If you are having difficulties understanding the material, odds are that someone else is, too. It is your responsibility to ask questions about things you don't understand. And continue to ask questions until you do understand it. Remember (as trite as it sounds), there are no such things as dumb questions. And, I won't bite your head off (at least not on days ending in y).

**7. Are there going to be more definitions on this test?**

Yes. And don't forget to give me examples to get full credit.

**8. Are there going to be more listing questions on this test?**

See the answer to #7.

**9. Can I have the answers to the next test?**

Sure. The answers can be found in the textbook and my lectures. So, if you read the book and attend class, you will have all the answers to the questions on the test.

**10. This isn't what I expected Psychology to be.**

That isn't surprising. I know that many people have misperceptions about Psychology before they start to study it. I think they see Frasier on television and get an idea in their head before they come into class. However, I believe Psychology is much more interesting than what the stereotyped Hollywood version (usually something resembling clinical psychoanalysis or some New Age Pop Psychology)

can ever be. Plus, the **really** neat thing about the field of Psychology is that it's kinda like the weather in my home state of Michigan--if you don't like what's going on this week, just stick around. It'll change next week. Psychology covers a wide range of subjects and just about anyone can find something of interest.