**Unit 6: Developmental Psychology**

**7-9% AP Exam Weighting**

Developmental psychology encompasses the study of the behavior of organisms from conception to death. In this unit, students will learn to examine the processes that contribute to behavioral change throughout a person’s life. The major areas of emphasis in the course include prenatal development, motor development, socialization, cognitive development, adolescence, and adulthood. Developmental psychologists seek to understand how changes in our biology and social situations over a lifespan influence our behaviors and mental processes. Development can be studied from several different perspectives, including biological or cognitive perspectives. Developmental psychologists may focus on one or more developmental periods or the entire course of a lifespan, using cross-sectional and longitudinal research methods.

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| **Essential Questions:** |
| * How do we perceive and understand ourselves?
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| **Unit Outline and Learning Targets** |
| **6.1 The Lifespan and Physical Development in Childhood-** *Skill: Analyze psychological research studies.*1. Explain the process of conception and gestation, including factors that influence successful pre-natal development.
2. Discuss the interaction of nature and nurture (including cultural variations), specifically physical development, in the determination of behavior.
3. Discuss maturation of motor skills.

**6.2 Social Development in Childhood-** *Skill: Apply theories and perspectives in authentic contexts.*1. Describe the influence of temperament and other social factors on attachment and appropriate socialization
2. Identify the contributions of major researchers in developmental psychology in the area of social development in childhood.
3. Discuss the interaction of nature and nurture (including cultural variations), specifically social development, in the determination of behavior.
4. Explain how parenting styles influence development.

**6.3 Cognitive Development in Childhood-** *Skill: Apply theories and perspectives in authentic contexts.*1. Explain the maturation of cognitive abilities (Piaget’s stages).
2. Identify the contributions of major researchers in the area of cognitive development in childhood.

**6.4 Adolescent Development-** *Skill: Explain behavior in authentic context.*1. Discuss maturational challenges in adolescence, including related family conflicts.

**6.5 Adulthood and Aging-** *Skill: Apply theories and perspectives in authentic contexts*1. Characterize the development of decisions related to intimacy as people mature.
2. Predict the physical and cognitive changes that emerge through the lifespan, including steps that can be taken to maximize function.
3. Identify the contributions of key researchers in the area of adulthood and aging.

**6.6 Moral Development-** *Skill: Analyze psychological research studies.*1. Identify the contributions of major researchers in the area of moral development.
2. Compare and contrast models of moral development.

**6.7 Gender and Sexual Orientation-** *Skill: Define and/or apply concepts.*1. Describe how sex and gender influence socialization and other aspects of development.
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| **Vocabulary to Master:** (you should be able to define each of these terms by test day)  |
| **6.1 The Lifespan and Physical Development in Childhood**Developmental PsychologyZygoteEmbryoFetusTeratogensFetal Alcohol SyndromeHabituationMaturation**6.2 Social Development in Childhood**AttachmentCritical periodTemperamentImprintingErickson’s 8 Stages- know each of them and their virtueBaumrind’s 4 parenting styles- know each and their results**6.3 Cognitive Development in Childhood**SchemaAssimilationAccommodationSensorimotor Stage Object Permanence Sense of SelfPre-operational Stage Egocentrism Theory of Mind ConservationConcrete Operational StageFormal Operational Stage Abstract Reasoning**6.4 Adolescent Development**AdolescencePubertyMenarche | **6.5 Adulthood and Aging**MenopauseAlzheimer’sFive Stages of Grief**6.6 Moral Development-**Preconventional MoralityConventional MoralityPostconventional Morality**6.7 Gender and Sexual Orientation**Sex/Intersex (NOT just 2!)TranssexualGender/Gender BinaryGender Identify/fluidityAndrogynytransgenderSexual OrientationAsexualCisgender/CisnormativityAlly  |

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| **Key People to Know:** (you should recognize these names and be able to list their contributions to psychology by test day) |
| **Albert Bandura****Diana Baumrind****Konrad Lorenz****Harry Harlow****Mary Ainsworth****Sigmund Freud****Lev Vygotsky****Jean Piaget****Erik Erikson****Carol Gilligan****Lawrence Kohlberg** |

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