

Scheme of Learning: Perception

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sensation and perception	Monocular and Binocular depth cues	Gibson's direct theory	Gregory's constructivist theory	Visual illusions	Expectation	Motivation	Culture and emotion

Topic Overview:

This topic focuses on how we perceive the world around us and how our perception may or may not be influenced by factors such as expectation, motivation, culture or emotions. We also use depth cues to explain visual illusions and allow students to investigate how visual illusions may be culturally specific in that they only work on particular people.

Lesson Sequence:

The topic of perception starts by defining the key differences between sensation and perception. Visual consistencies & monocular and binocular depth cues are used to further highlight the idea that some perception might be described as innate, perhaps adaptive, whilst living and learning from environment conditions might cause experience to change our perception.

This idea of innate perception or experience gained from our environment is explained in further detail by looking at two key, contrasting theories, Gibson's direct theory of perception, which argues that sensation is the same as perception, and Gregory's constructivist theory, which argues that experience changes perception.

Gibson's direct theory fails to explain why we are fooled by visual illusions. In this section of the topic we focus on the explanations of visual illusions such as the Muller-Lyer, Necker cube and Ponzio. Student link these illusions back to the idea of depth cues and visual consistencies to explain how we can be fooled and how some cultures may experience illusions differently.

Bruner and Minturn's study of perceptual set focuses on proving that experience affects the perception of an ambiguous figure by placing that figure in a sequence of numbers and letters. This is and Gilchrist and Nesberg's study of motivation reinforce the idea that perception can change.

We further investigate the factors that affect perception by studying the effects of culture and emotion on our perception.

Finally we look at the impact of motivation, in the form of hunger, as a force that changes perception.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	Topic intro – Knowledge map and study guide
2	Sensation and perception
3	Binocular depth cues
4	Monocular depth cues
5	Gibson's direct theory of perception
6	Evaluating Gibson's direct theory of perception
7	Visual illusions
8	Gregory's constructivist theory of perception
9	Evaluating Gregory's constructivist theory of perception
10	Bruner and Minturn's study of expectation and perceptual set
11	Evaluating Bruner and Minturn's experiment
12	The effect of culture on perception
13	The effect of emotion on perception
14	Gilchrist and Nesberg's study of motivation and perceptual set
15	Evaluating Gilchrist and Nesberg's experiment

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	Perception	Any other Resources:	Study guide
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Assessment:

Knowledge:	Mid topic 20Marks End of topic 20Marks Assessment - 4marks
Application of Knowledge:	Longer written apply questions as part of end of topic assessment - 28marks

Supportive Reading:

Gibson's direct theory & Gregory's constructivist theory	Two theories that are often connected because of their direct contradict each other. Gibson focuses on the idea of nature and innate ability to perceive the world whilst Gregory focuses on inferences and experience playing a part in perception.
Bruner & Minturn's study of perceptual set	A study of how expectation affects the perception of an ambiguous figure.
Gilchrist and Nesberg's study of motivation	A study that looks at the motivational force of hunger and its effect on the perception of food.