

Chapter 2: Early developments
Discussion questions

1. Debate whether Wilhelm Wundt or William James should be considered the founder of experimental psychology.
2. Do you favor elementism, atomism, or reductionism as against anti-elementism or anti-reductionism? Why?
3. What is epistemology? What are the best sources of information for developing credible beliefs?
4. Which, if any, of Plato's ideas about psychology are still relevant in the 21st century? Why? Do you think we simply recycle ideas?
5. Do any of Aristotle's main ideas about psychology are still relevant today? Why?
6. Contrast Epicureanism and stoicism. Which do you find more convincing and why?
7. Why were the Middle Ages sometimes called the Dark Ages?
8. Do you think that a shift from religious to secular thought is fundamental to the beginning of science? Why?
9. Briefly summarize the components of each of Karl Muenzinger's scientific trends.
10. Do the same for Muenzinger's philosophical trends.
11. What role did the theory of evolution play in the emergence of early experimental psychology?