

1. Julie, a physics major, has difficulty believing that psychology is a science, because people cannot observe other people's thoughts and sensations. Explain how Edward Titchener and John B. Watson would have responded to Julie's skepticism regarding psychology's scientific status.
2. Kathy does not want to become a psychologist because she has no interest in analyzing emotionally disturbed people. Use your knowledge of psychology's perspectives and subfields to expand Kathy's limited understanding of career opportunities for psychologists.
3. Jack is a second-grade student. He seems to have no interest in learning, often daydreaming in class and frequently disrupting the class by throwing objects at other students. Describe how a biopsychosocial approach might provide both an integrated explanation of Jack's classroom behavior and practical suggestions for helping Jack to cope more effectively with the challenges he faces.
4. When your best friend hears that you are taking a psychology course, she asserts that psychology is simply common sense. Explain why your awareness of both the limits of everyday reasoning and the methods of psychological research would lead you to disagree with your friend's assertion.
5. Speaking at Verbatim University's graduation ceremony, Professor Robson compared college and university graduates with adults who are less educated. She correctly noted that people with higher-education degrees pay more taxes, vote more frequently, engage in more volunteer activities in their communities, and are less likely to go to jail than less-educated adults. The professor concluded that colleges and universities obviously do great things for society. How might you reasonably challenge the way the professor reached her conclusion?
6. Design an experiment to test whether drinking alcohol influences people's tendency to become socially aggressive. Be sure to specify your experimental hypothesis and identify your dependent and independent variables, as well as your experimental and control conditions. Identify any experimental procedures that would help to ensure the reliability of your research.

Answer Key

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- 6.