

MODULE 17 INFLUENCES ON PERCEPTION

PERCEPTUAL SET

- A PERCEPTUAL SET is a set of mental tendencies and assumptions that greatly affects what we perceive. These are the two sided pictures. Through our schemas, we organize information and interpret unfamiliar information.

CONTEXT EFFECTS

- The brain can work backward in time to allow a later stimulus to determine how we perceive an earlier one. Top-down influences our perception.

EMOTION AND MOTIVATION

- Hearing sad rather than happy music can predispose people to perceive a sad meaning in spoken homophonic words – “die” vs. “dye”
- Motives direct our perception of ambiguous images.
- Emotions control how we perceive our social perceptions.

PERCEPTION WITHOUT SENSATION?

- **EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION (ESP)** is the controversial claim that perception can occur apart from sensory input; includes telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition. The problem is that if ESP is true then our theory on sensation/perception is flawed.
- **TELEPATHY** mind-to-mind communication
- **CLAIRVOYANCE** perceiving future events, such as an unexpected death in the next month.
- **PRECOGNITION** is perceiving future events, such as an unexpected death in the next month.
- **PARAPSYCHOLOGY** are researchers that investigate paranormal activity for scientific experimentation.

BE ABLE TO ANSWER: What type of evidence shows that, indeed, “there is more to perception than meets the senses”?

What is the field of study that researches claims of extrasensory perception (ESP)?

PRACTICE FRQ: Martha is convinced she has extrasensory perception. Explain what Martha's specific abilities would be if she had each of the following forms of ESP: Telepathy, Clairvoyance, Precognition. Then, briefly explain why you should doubt her claims.