

Criteria for Evaluating Theories in Psychology

Criterion	What it means
Comprehensiveness	Does the theory cover everything it should?
Parsimony	Is the theory concise?
Clarity of Constructs	Is the theory clearly expressed?
Internal Consistency	Do all the bits of the theory hang together?
Testability	Can the theory be tested?
Empirical Support	Is there evidence to support the theory?
Heuristic Value	Does the theory help us think in new and interesting ways?

Adpated from McGhee, 2001 Thinking Psychologically, London: Palgrave p40 Table 3.4. Presented by permission of the author.



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Published 28th November, 2015.
Last updated 28th November, 2015.
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