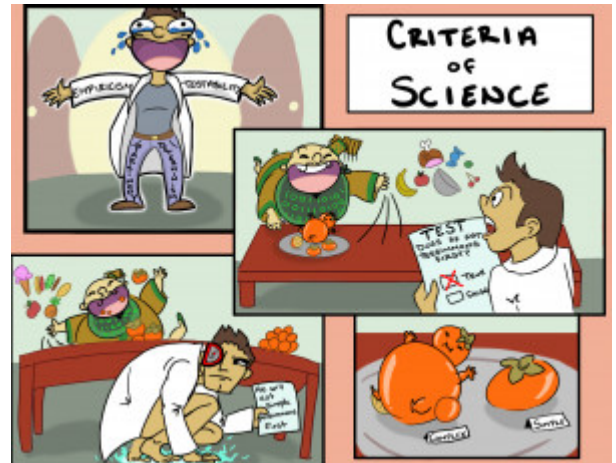


Criteria of Science

Psychology, as a science, relies on criteria common to other sciences. These characteristics are empiricism, which is the reliance on observable data, testability, or that explanations can be proved true or false from data, parsimony, meaning that simple explanations are preferred, and finally determinism, explaining that behavior is predictable.



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Empiricism

Emperor of Observable-data

This criteria of science means that there is a reliance on observable data. Empiricism means that behavior should be able to be observed reliably. For example, two different observers should have the same results when viewing a person's behavior in a scientific study.

Testability

True or False Test

Testability means that a scientific explanation can be proved true or false by looking at empirical data. As scientists, psychologists avoid untestable explanations.

Parsimony

Parsimon

Parsimony means simplicity, and explains that when two explanations are available to the scientific psychologist for a behavior, the more simple explanation is preferred over the more complicated one.

Determinism

D-terminator

Determinism states that behavior is ultimately predictable, because it follows a lawful order. It sides with the idea that if we knew enough about an individual, we could predict their behavior.