

## PSYCHOLOGISTS' PREFERENCES FOR DIVISIONS UNDER THE PROPOSED APA BY-LAWS

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A ballot prepared by the Joint Constitutional Committee of the American Psychological Association and the American Association for Applied Psychology was mailed through the facilities of the Office of Psychological Personnel to all American psychologists, regardless of society affiliation, early in 1944. The ballot, entitled *Survey of Opinion on the By-Laws Proposed for a Reorganized American Psychological Association* consisted of three sections, the first devoted to the divisional organization, the second reporting the present affiliation of the respondent, and the third calling for general comments, criticisms and suggestions on the proposed by-laws.\* This report is concerned with the preferences indicated for divisions.

It is appropriate that these divisional preferences be re-examined at this time, because, by action of the two societies at their meetings in September 1944, the Joint Constitutional Committee is charged with proposing to the membership suggested modifications of the divisional structure which appeared in the edition of the by-laws prepared in June 1944 and adopted at the September meetings. It was the sense of the meeting that the number of divisions be reduced through combining those showing the greatest amount of overlap. The material presented here will be used by the committee in its further deliberations.

The divisional preferences are of considerable interest apart from their relationship to the organizational problems of the psychological associations, since they reveal a good deal about the psychologist's picture of himself in relation to his profession. Because most of those who replied checked a number of divisions, it is possible to determine significant interest clusters. The relative frequency of choices indicates trends within the profession.

Instructions relative to the checking of divisional preferences were as follows:

Indicate by a *single check* all the divisions you might wish to join if such divisions were established, and by a *double check* the division of your primary choice. Write the names of possible additional divisions in the blank spaces and check in the same way.

There followed the following 19 divisions, and three additional blank spaces:

1. Division of Abnormal Psychology
2. Division of Animal (Comparative) Psychology
3. Division of Business Psychology

\* A copy of the ballot is to be found in the *Psychological Bulletin*, 1943, 40, 646 f.

4. Division of Child (Developmental) Psychology (incl. Adolescence)
5. Division of Clinical Psychology
6. Division of Consulting Psychology
7. Division of Educational Psychology
8. Division of General Psychology\*
9. Division of Industrial Psychology
10. Division of Measurements and Statistics
11. Division of Military Psychology
12. Division of Personnel Psychology
13. Division of Physiological Psychology
14. Division of Public Service
15. Division of Social Psychology
16. Division on the Teaching of Psychology
17. Division of Theoretical, Systematic and Historical Psychology
18. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (if a Division of the APA)
19. Psychometric Society (if a Division of the APA)

The names as they appeared on the ballot are reproduced here, because the wording of the titles undoubtedly influenced choices in some cases. In the tables which follow, divisions are identified by the adjective used in alphabetizing them, in the case of the first 17 divisions, and by society initials or abbreviated names in the case of the last two.

Some 6,000 ballots were mailed out. These went to many persons not affiliated with the major societies, whose names were obtained from the Roster of Scientific and Professional Personnel and other sources. The 3,680 usable ballots returned represent the preferences of a substantial proportion of active psychologists. Membership in the American Psychological Association in 1944 totalled 3,806; the American Association for Applied Psychology included but 80 more who did not belong to the APA. A summary of ballots returned is presented in Table I.

TABLE I  
TOTAL VOTES TALLIED

	Number	Per cent
Ballots with single primary choices among listed divisions	2677	73
Ballots with write-in divisions as primary choices	114	3
Ballots with multiple primary choices	365	10
Ballots without primary choice (single checks only)	524	14
Total completed returns	3680*	100

\* There were in addition 75 ballots returned without votes for divisions. These were chiefly from respondents who did not consider themselves eligible to vote, but a few were returned blank by those disapproving of the reorganization.

\* Attention was called to the provision of the proposed by-laws which stated: "Members of the Association not expressing a preference for any special division, shall be members of a Division of General Psychology." This definition of the division as a division-at-large affected the number of preferences expressed for it.

A general summary of divisional preferences is given in Table II. That the center of gravity of interest of psychologists has shifted toward

TABLE II  
SUMMARY OF PRIMARY AND OTHER CHOICES FOR DIVISIONS

Proposed Divisions	Primary Choices (double-checked)			Secondary Choices (single- checked)	Total Choices	Per cent of 3680
	Single Choice	One of Multiple Choice	Total			
1. Abnormal	112	54	166	1,314	1,480	40
2. Animal	35	6	41	304	345	9
3. Business	22	23	45	529	574	16
4. Child	227	84	311	1,308	1,619	44
5. Clinical	618	150	768	1,183	1,951	53
6. Consulting	152	94	246	1,166	1,412	38
7. Educational	210	73	283	1,029	1,312	36
8. General	212	33	245	632	877	24
9. Industrial	136	56	192	771	963	26
10. Measurement	104	48	152	959	1,111	30
11. Military	36	32	68	825	893	24
12. Personnel	316	101	417	1,316	1,733	47
13. Physiological	125	20	145	393	538	15
14. Public Service	17	11	28	297	325	9
15. Social	104	55	159	888	1,047	28
16. Teaching	71	41	112	791	903	25
17. Theoretical	73	23	96	497	593	16
18. SPSSI	61	40	101	784	885	24
19. Psychometric Soc.	46	24	70	590	660	18
20. Other (specified)	114	38	152	243	395	11
Total choices by 3,680 respondents	2,791	1,006	3,797	15,819	19,616	

applied fields is evident in the three choices which lead both in expressed primary preferences and in secondary preferences: clinical, personnel, and child. Apart from general psychology, which has a somewhat ambiguous meaning in this context, the several divisions next in order of primary preference are educational, consulting, and industrial. Physiological psychology follows these. That psychologists do not think of themselves as animal psychologists or as comparative psychologists in any considerable numbers is shown by the rating of animal psychology as 17th among the 19 named divisions in primary choices, and 18th in secondary choices.

When a stated list such as this one is presented for vote, unnamed divisions are at a distinct disadvantage, even though encouragement is given for writing in the names of additional divisions. Relatively few of those replying (about 10%) took advantage of the opportunity for writing in other divisions, and only 114 of 3,680 (3%) double-checked the written-in division as their one primary choice. That several divi-

sions even under these circumstances received an appreciable number of votes means that they would have received a much larger number had they been written on the ballot. The most frequently mentioned additional divisions are listed in Table III. The replies have been coded

TABLE III  
PREFERENCES EXPRESSED FOR DIVISIONS NOT NAMED ON THE BALLOT

Divisions Written-In	Primary Choices (double-checked)			Secondary Choices (single- checked)	Total Choices
	Single Choice	One of Multiple Choice	Total		
Experimental	30	5	35	31	66
Personality	15	4	19	15	34
Learning	9	0	9	11	20
Vocational Guidance	9	5	14	15	29
Esthetics	8	4	12	18	30
Medical	6	1	7	9	16
School	5	0	5	0	5
Religious	4	2	6	14	20
Genetic	4	1	5	17	22
Crime; Delinquency	3	1	4	11	15
Mental Hygiene	3	2	5	15	20
Others	18*	13	31	87	118
Total Choices	114	38	152	243	395

\* Not more than 2 preferences for any one additional division.

so that slight verbal differences were ignored in grouping the votes. Perception and psychophysics were included under experimental psychology; psychoanalysis was included under medical psychology. Esthetics includes all mentions of art, music, and literature. Educational guidance was in some cases mentioned with vocational guidance, and they are not separately tabulated.

The main interests not provided for in the list of named divisions as derived from the additional suggestions are those of general experimental psychology, personality in its general rather than clinical meaning, and esthetics. The other special interests are distinctive, but are in all cases closely related to proposed divisions.

In an attempt to simplify the divisional structure through the combining of divisions, it is important to know the overlap among divisional preferences. Therefore the replies have been classified according to the division of primary preference, and all other choices tabulated. The results are given in Table IV, in terms of the absolute number of votes. The last column of this table gives the number of divisions mentioned per reply, for each of the primary choices.

The data of Table IV have been expressed as percentages in Table V.

TABLE IV  
ALL CHOICES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DIVISION OF PRIMARY CHOICE: NUMBER OF VOTES

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Proposed Divisions: Primary Choices	Total Returns Classified According to Primary Choice	Other Divisions Checked by Those with Stated Primary Choice																				Number of Divisions Mentioned per Reply
		1. Abnormal	2. Animal	3. Business	4. Child	5. Clinical	6. Consulting	7. Educational	8. General	9. Industrial	10. Measurement	11. Military	12. Personnel	13. Physiological	14. Public Service	15. Social	16. Teaching	17. Theoretical	18. SPSSI	19. Psychometric Soc.	20. Other	
1. Abnormal	112		13	11	47	86	48	16	23	18	15	15	35	30	7	41	33	25	27	16	13	5.6
2. Animal	35	13		1	10	7	2	6	13	8	7	6	5	21	3	11	10	16	13	4	3	5.3
3. Business	22	4	0		1	0	9	3	1	21	6	3	17	0	2	4	1	0	4	2	0	4.5
4. Child	227	60	8	8		142	75	110	26	20	54	9	62	12	12	64	47	20	54	29	9	4.6
5. Clinical	618	388	13	28	388		350	217	56	77	141	75	236	44	38	121	117	49	130	130	33	5.3
6. Consulting	152	82	2	22	75	111		51	12	40	24	33	85	13	14	35	34	10	36	16	9	5.6
7. Educational	210	42	2	12	126	68	51		40	18	89	25	92	6	12	43	77	13	34	23	4	4.7
8. General	212	78	38	20	61	55	34	38		46	46	21	66	55	72	66	61	76	41	23	22	5.1
9. Industrial	136	27	4	82	16	41	54	15	11		60	24	117	10	13	16	8	7	23	28	7	5.1
10. Measurement	104	11	6	17	23	29	19	50	18	28		19	53	4	10	24	17	15	23	70	5	5.2
11. Military	36	16	1	12	7	19	12	7	2	18	10		28	6	5	7	3	5	4	7	2	5.8
12. Personnel	316	65	7	119	56	113	117	97	38	195	114	80		11	43	69	51	21	53	40	13	5.1
13. Physiological	125	40	60	3	23	30	9	8	32	17	24	21	14	3	10	22	28	12	12	11		4.0
14. Public Service	17	3	1	4	3	11	6	2	1	7	4	5	12	1		5	2	1	6	3	0	5.5
15. Social	104	32	11	11	37	30	24	19	30	20	24	10	31	12	11		30	30	70	10	7	5.3
16. Teaching	71	35	6	9	33	29	22	36	23	16	23	14	33	14	4	21		10	17	9	4	6.0
17. Theoretical	73	34	21	7	21	25	9	13	29	6	12	5	9	15	1	28	20		26	7	14	5.1
18. SPSSI	61	20	2	7	25	19	14	15	9	12	13	7	24	3	16	50	5	15		10	7	5.5
19. Psychometric Soc.	46	4	0	6	6	7	7	16	8	13	40	6	18	1	2	4	2	4		2	4	4.3
20. Others (specified)	114	36	24	7	33	48	25	18	34	13	19	12	28	24	4	28	27	36	26	8	10	5.0
Total, Single Primary Choices	2791	990	219	386	991	870	887	737	406	593	725	390	965	282	212	647	569	379	603	447	177	5.1
Multiple Primary Choices	365	193	34	87	201	238	196	180	107	117	142	86	222	56	57	154	137	61	113	81	60	6.1
No Primary Choice	524	185	57	79	200	225	177	185	152	117	140	81	230	75	39	142	126	80	108	86	44	4.8
Total Returns and Choices	3680	1368	310	552	1392	1333	1260	1102	665	827	1007	557	1417	413	308	943	832	520	824	614	281	5.3

TABLE V  
ALL CHOICES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DIVISION OF PRIMARY CHOICE: PER CENTS

Proposed Divisions: Primary Choices	Total Returns Classified According to Primary Choice <sup>a</sup>		Other Divisions Checked Expressed as a Per cent of Those With Stated Primary Choice																			
			1. Abnormal	2. Animal	3. Business	4. Child	5. Clinical	6. Consulting	7. Educational	8. General	9. Industrial	10. Measurement	11. Military	12. Personnel	13. Physiological	14. Public Service	15. Social	16. Teaching	17. Theoretical	18. SPSSI	19. Psychometric Soc.	20. Other <sup>b</sup>
	Number	Per cent																				
1. Abnormal	112	100		12	10	42	77	43	14	21	16	13	13	31	27	6	37	29	22	24	14	12
2. Animal	35	100	37		3	29	20	6	17	37	23	20	17	14	60	9	31	29	46	37	11	9
3. Business	22	100	18	0		5	0	41	14	5	95	27	14	77	0	18	5	0	18	9	0	0
4. Child	227	100	26	4	4		63	33	48	11	9	24	4	27	5	28	21	9	24	13	4	
5. Clinical	618	100	63	2	5	63		57	35	9	12	23	12	38	7	5	20	19	8	21	21	5
6. Consulting	152	100	54	1	14	49	73		34	8	26	16	22	56	9	9	23	22	7	24	11	6
7. Educational	210	100	20	1	6	60	32	24		19	9	42	12	44	3	6	20	37	6	16	11	2
8. General	212	100	37	18	9	29	26	16	18		22	22	10	31	26	7	31	29	36	19	11	10
9. Industrial	136	100	20	3	60	12	30	40	11	8		44	18	86	7	10	12	6	5	17	21	5
10. Measurement	104	100	11	6	16	22	28	18	48	17	27		18	51	4	10	23	16	14	22	67	5
11. Military	36	100	44	3	33	19	53	33	19	6	50	28		78	17	14	19	8	14	11	19	6
12. Personnel	316	100	21	2	38	18	36	37	31	12	62	36	25		3	14	22	16	7	17	13	4
13. Physiological	125	100	32	48	2	18	24	7	6	26	14	19	17	11		2	8	18	22	10	10	9
14. Public Service	17	100	18	6	24	18	65	35	12	6	41	24	30	71	6		30	12	6	35	18	0
15. Social	104	100	31	11	11	36	29	23	18	29	19	23	10	30	12	11		29	29	67	10	7
16. Teaching	71	100	49	8	13	46	41	31	51	32	23	32	20	46	20	6	30		14	24	13	6
17. Theoretical	73	100	47	29	10	29	34	12	18	40	8	16	7	12	21	1	38	27		36	10	19
18. SPSSI	61	100	35	3	11	41	31	23	25	15	20	21	11	39	5	26	82	8	25	16	11	9
19. Psychometric Soc.	46	100	9	0	13	13	15	15	35	17	28	87	13	39	2	4	9	4	9		9	9
20. Others (specified)	114	100	31	21	6	29	42	22	16	30	11	17	11	25	21	4	25	24	32	23	7	9
Total, Single Primary Choices	2791	100	35	8	14	36	31	32	26	15	21	26	14	35	10	8	23	20	14	22	16	6
Multiple Primary Choices <sup>c</sup>	365	100	53	9	23	55	65	54	49	29	32	39	24	61	15	16	42	38	17	31	22	16
No Primary Choice <sup>d</sup>	524	100	35	11	15	38	43	34	35	29	22	27	15	44	14	7	27	24	15	21	16	8
Total Returns and Choices	3680	100	37	8	15	38	36	34	30	18	22	27	15	39	11	8	26	23	14	22	17	8
Chances in 100 that division will be checked by those whose single primary choice is another division			37	8	14	39	40	34	29	16	22	27	14	39	11	8	24	21	14	22	16	7

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<sup>a</sup> The division of primary choice was double-checked on the ballot; other divisions chosen were single-checked, except as indicated.  
<sup>b</sup> Other divisions written on the ballot. All mentions counted.  
<sup>c</sup> If more than one division double-checked, all divisions checked (whether single or double) were entered in this row.  
<sup>d</sup> Single-checks only.

In this table the secondary choices are expressed as a per cent of those with a given primary choice. This mode of presentation makes possible an interpretation by inspection of those divisional choices which lead to secondary choices different from the population as a whole.

Tables IV and V show the wide spread of secondary choices for all primary choices, with an average of something over 5 divisions being checked per reply. Some clusters of interest are evident, such as abnormal-clinical-consulting, business-industrial-personnel, measurement-Psychometric Society, social-SPSSI. Some logically overlapping interests do not in fact overlap, such as animal and child psychology.

The manner in which Table V can be used may be illustrated by animal and child psychology. From the table, the following assertions are possible:

- 4% of those whose primary preference was child also checked animal, which is less than the
- 8% of all those whose primary preference was other than animal who checked animal

Similarly,

- 29% of those whose primary preference was animal also checked child, which is less than the
- 39% of all those whose primary preference was other than child who checked child.

These results mean that the overlap between child and animal is less, on the average, than the overlap between either of these divisions and other listed divisions. This is an empirical argument against their combination.

By making use of the absolute numbers found in Table IV, it is possible to test the interrelationships of several divisions at once. For example, of the 882 whose primary choices were abnormal, clinical, or consulting, 815 or 92% checked clinical, 582 or 66% checked abnormal, and 550 or 62% checked consulting. It is evident that a grouping of these together as clinical would recognize the largest number of the group with a common preference.

Tabulations by society membership have not been made for the whole sample, but the ballots have been preserved, and supplementary analyses are possible. It is expected that the ballots will prove useful to the Division Organization Committee in obtaining lists of those interested in divisions but not represented by existing organized groups.