

The background is a solid light orange color. It features several faint, white, circular and semi-circular patterns. On the left side, there is a large circular scale with tick marks and numbers ranging from 150 to 260. The numbers are: 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260. There are also several smaller circular diagrams with arrows indicating clockwise or counter-clockwise directions, some with dashed lines and some with solid lines. The overall aesthetic is clean and technical.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology: The scientific study of the mind and behavior

1. The contents of the mind: Voluntarism, structuralism
2. Mental operations: Functionalism, psychoanalysis, Gestalt
3. Environment and response: Behaviorism

FUNCTIONALISM: THE BASICS

- Psychology is primarily concerned with the study of mental activity
- Developers: John Dewey (1859-1952), James R. Angell (1869-1949), Harvey A. Carr (1873-1954)
- Especially: **William James (1842-1910)**
- Method: Tests, questionnaires, and objective behavioral descriptions, in addition to introspection

GESTALT: DETAIL

- Two major fields of contribution: perception and learning
- **Principles of perceptual organization** (Wetheimer): Proximity, similarity, closure, pragnanz (“good figure”).
- **Insight learning** (Kohler): Spontaneous understanding of relationships that produces a solution to a problem
- Four stages (Wallas): Preparation, incubation, illumination and verification.
- **Isomorphism** between perception and underlying brain activity
- Gestalt psychology was seen as the mental equivalent of field theory in physics.

WHERE DOES THE PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH STAND?

- Psychology was the first discipline to study the mind systematically and scientifically.
- It faced the problem of observing and measuring its object, which led to an overreliance on theory.
- In early stages, non-scientific methods were used, which led to a lack of precision.
- The lack of an overarching theoretical framework led to a very disunified study.