Levels of HPCT

Perceptual Control Theory (PCT) is the brainchild of William T. Powers and was first set forth in considerable detail in his book *Behavior: The Control of Perception* (1973) and elaborated on in various publications since. Powers also speculated about a hierarchy of perceptions, with each level providing the reference signal for the level below it and receiving perceptual signals from it. Hence, Hierarchical PCT (HPCT). The most recent version of this hierarchy is shown below. The examples are mine.

	Level	Definition	Example
Level 11	System Concepts	Coherent organizations of principles	Lifestyle
Level 10	Principles	Fundamental rules, laws, standards, values, truths, beliefs	Always have a fresh cup of coffee first thing in the morning
Level 9	Perception Reference Programs	Structures of tests and choice-points regarding sequences	Brewing a fresh pot of coffee
Level 8	Perception Reference	Perceptions that occur in a fixed order over time	Pot emptied, fresh water and grounds added, pot turned on
Level 7	Perception Reference Categories	<i>Classes of perceptions having shared characteristics</i>	Coffee grounds, pot, water, basket, filter
Level 6	Relationships	The ways in which two or more perceptions relate to one another	Level of water in pot in relation to line indicating desired number of cups
Level 5	Perception Reference	Particular patterns of lower-level perceptions, typically short-duration	Filling coffee pot with water
Level 4	Perception Reference Transitions	Moving, changing configurations	Moving faucet handle up (on) and then back down (off)
Level 3	Perception Reference	Particular arrangement of sensations	Coffee pot held under faucet
Level 2	Perception Reference	Types of sensory stimulation	Weight of coffee pot (empty, filling, full)
Level 1	Perception Reference	Amount or quantity of sensory stimulation	<i>Muscle tension needed to hold coffee pot under faucet</i>

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