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.

	Level	Definition	Example
Level 11	System Concepts	Coherent organizations of principles	Healthy diet
Level 10	Perception Reference Principles	Fundamental rules, laws, standards, truths, beliefs	Avoid caffeine in the evening
Level 9	Perception Reference Programs	<i>Structures of tests and choice-points regarding sequences</i>	Follow a recipe
Level 8	Perception Reference	<i>Perceptions that occur in a fixed order over time</i>	Get cup, brew coffee, fill cup, sit at table, drink coffee
Level 7	Perception Reference	<i>Classes of perceptions having shared characteristics</i>	Coffee, cream, sugar
Level 6	Perception Reference	The ways in which two or more perceptions relate to one another	Ratio of coffee grounds to water
Level 5	Perception Reference	Particular patterns of lower-level perceptions, typically short-duration	Taking a sip of coffee
Level 4	Perception Reference	Moving, changing configurations	Lifting coffee cup to lips
Level 3	Perception Reference	Particular arrangement of sensations	Seated at breakfast table
Level 2	Perception Reference	Types of sensory stimulation	The temperature of the coffee; its taste; its color, sweetness
Level 1	Perception Reference	Amount or quantity of sensory stimulation	Muscle tension in clenching one's teeth