

PSYC-101 - General Psychology – Midterm Exam Study Guide

Text: *Psychology in Your Life*

Chapter 1: Introducing the World of Psychology

After reading and studying this topic, you should be able to do the following:

- Define psychology
- Compare and contrast the following approaches to psychology and identify contributions of each approach: Psychoanalytic, Cognitive, Humanistic, and Behaviorism.
- Describe the *five* steps used in the Scientific Method.
- Discuss the importance of critical thinking in Psychology
- Distinguish between a theory and hypothesis.
- Discuss the advantages and limitations of the Descriptive methods: case study, self-reports, and observational.
- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of correlational research methods.
- Describe experimental methods and discuss advantages and disadvantages of this method.
- Define the dependent and independent variables in an experiment
- Explain the purpose of random assignment and distinguish between the experimental group and the control group in an experiment. 1.11
- Discuss the purpose of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) in dealing with ethical concerns in research including informed consent and protection from harm.

Chapter 2: The Role of Biology in Psychology

After reading and studying this topic, you should be able to do the following:

- Be able to describe the structures of a neuron (axon, cell body, dendrite, terminal buttons)
- Define synapse and explain the importance of neurotransmitters in sending messages.
- Briefly describe the peripheral and central nervous systems.
- Define the influence of drugs that are agonists and drugs that are antagonists on neurotransmitters (you do not have to know the functions of individual neurotransmitters like Dopamine now)
- Briefly describe what techniques are used to study the brain in modern brain research: EEG, fMRI, TMS
- Describe the role of the hindbrain and midbrain
- Explain the functions of the hypothalamus, hippocampus, and amygdala
- Describe the major functions of the occipital, parietal, frontal, and temporal lobes.
- Explain the function of the prefrontal cortex
- Define the general purpose of the sympathetic and parasympathetic divisions of the autonomic nervous system and the endocrine system
- Define plasticity of the brain.
- Discuss the nature/nurture issue and how genes and the environment influence humans

Chapter 6: Learning

After reading and studying this topic, you should be able to do the following:

- Define learning
- Describe the primary difference between habituation and sensitization.
- Define classical conditioning and be able to apply terms like unconditioned stimulus (US), unconditioned response (UR), conditioned stimulus (CS), conditioned response (CR), extinction, spontaneous recovery, generalization and discrimination.
- Describe the difference between an operant and a reinforcer
- Describe Thorndike's *law of effect*
- Define operant conditioning and be able to apply terms like positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, positive punishment, negative punishment, and shaping to an example

General Psychology Psy2012 Midterm Study Guide

Ian Pickup



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