

Paper 3 – Revision Checklists

Issues and Debates

			
Gender and culture in Psychology – universality and bias. Gender bias including androcentrism and alpha and beta bias; cultural bias, including ethnocentrism and cultural relativism.			
Free will and determinism: hard determinism and soft determinism; biological, environmental and psychic determinism. The scientific emphasis on causal explanations.			
The nature-nurture debate: the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour; the interactionist approach.			
Holism and reductionism: levels of explanation in Psychology. Biological reductionism and environmental (stimulus-response) reductionism.			
Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation.			
Social sensitivity in psychological research.			

Cognition and Development

			
Piaget's theory of cognitive development: schemas, assimilation, accommodation, equilibration, stages of intellectual development. Characteristics of these stages, including object permanence, conservation, egocentrism and class inclusion.			
Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development, including the zone of proximal development and scaffolding.			
Baillargeon's explanation of early infant abilities, including knowledge of the physical world; violation of expectation research.			
The development of social cognition: Selman's levels of perspective-taking; theory of mind; the Sally-Anne study. The role of the mirror neuron system in social cognition.			

Schizophrenia

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Positive symptoms of schizophrenia, including hallucinations and delusions. Negative symptoms of schizophrenia, including speech poverty and avolition. Issues in diagnosis: co-morbidity, culture and gender bias and symptom overlap.			
Biological explanations for schizophrenia: genetics and neural correlates, including the dopamine hypothesis.			
Psychological explanations for schizophrenia: family dysfunction and cognitive explanations, including dysfunctional thought processing.			
Drug therapy: typical and atypical antipsychotics.			
Cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy as used in the treatment of schizophrenia.			
The importance of an interactionist approach in explaining and treating schizophrenia; the diathesis-stress model.			

Aggression

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Neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression, including the roles of the limbic system, serotonin and testosterone. Genetic factors in aggression, including the MAOA gene.			
The ethological explanation of aggression, including reference to innate releasing mechanisms and fixed action patterns. Evolutionary explanations of human aggression.			
Social psychological explanations of human aggression, including the frustration-aggression hypothesis, social learning theory as applied to human aggression, and de-individuation.			
Institutional aggression in the context of prisons: dispositional and situational explanations.			
Media influences on aggression, including the effects of computer games. The role of desensitisation, disinhibition and cognitive priming.			