Paper 2 – Revision Checklists

Approaches

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Learning approaches: i) the behaviourist approach, including classical conditioning and Pavlov's research, operant conditioning, types of reinforcement and Skinner's research			
Learning approaches: ii) SLT including imitation, identification, vicarious reinforcement, the role of mediational processes and Bandura's research.			
Cognitive approach: the study of internal mental processes, the role of schema, the use of models.			
Biological approach: the genetic basis of behaviour: genotype, phenotype and evolution. Influence of biological structures and neurochemistry on behaviour. Cognitive neuroscience.			
Psychodynamic approach: role of the unconscious, structure of personality (Id, Ego, Superego), defence mechanisms including repression, denial and displacement, psychosexual stages.			
Humanistic Psychology: free will, self-actualisation, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, congruence, the role of conditions of worth.			
Comparison of approaches.			

Biopsychology

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The divisions of the nervous system: central and peripheral (somatic and autonomic).			
The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. The process of synaptic transmission, including reference to neurotransmitters, excitation and inhibition.			
The function of the endocrine system: glands and hormones.			
The fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline.			
Ways of studying the brain: scanning techniques, including fMRI; EEGs and ERPs; post-mortem examinations.			
Localisation of function and hemispheric lateralisation: motor, somatosensory, visual, auditory and language centres; Broca's and Wernicke's areas, split brain research. Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma.			

Research Methods

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Experimental method. Types of experiment, laboratory and field experiments; natural and quasi-experiments.			
Observational techniques. Types of observation: naturalistic and controlled observation; covert and overt observation; participant and non-participant observation.			
Self-report techniques. Questionnaires; interviews, structured and unstructured.			
Correlations. Analysis of the relationship between co-variables. The difference between correlations and experiments.			
Content analysis.			
Case studies.			
Aims: stating aims, difference between aims and hypotheses.			
Hypotheses: directional and non-directional.			
Sampling: the difference between population and sample; sampling methods including: random, systematic, stratified, opportunity and volunteer; implications of sampling techniques, including bias and generalisation.			
Pilot studies and the aims of piloting.			
Experimental designs: repeated measures, independent groups, matched pairs.			
Observational design: behavioural categories; event sampling; time sampling.			
Questionnaire construction, including use of open and closed questions; design of interviews.			
Variables: manipulation and control of variables, including independent, dependent, extraneous; operationalisation of variables.			
Control: random allocation and counterbalancing, randomisation, standardisation and control groups.			
Demand characteristics and investigator effects.			
Ethics, including the role of the British Psychological Society's code of ethics; ethical issues in the design and conduct of psychological studies; dealing with ethical issues in research.			
The role of peer review in the scientific process.			
The implications of psychological research for the economy.			

Reliability across all methods of investigation. Ways of measuring: test-retest and inter-observer; improving reliability.			
Types of validity across all methods of investigation: face validity, concurrent validity, ecological validity and temporal validity. Measurement of validity. Improving validity.			
Features of science: objectivity and the empirical method; replicability and falsifiability; theory construction and hypothesis testing; paradigms and paradigm shifts.			
Sections of a scientific report: abstract, introduction, method, results, discussion and referencing.			
Quantitative and qualitative data; the distinction between qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques.			
Primary and secondary data, including meta-analysis.			
Descriptive statistics: measures and calculation of central tendency – mean, median, mode; measures of dispersion; range and standard deviation; calculation of range and percentages; positive, negative and zero correlations.			
Presentation and display of quantitative data: graphs, tables, scattergrams, bar charts, histograms.			
Distributions: normal and skewed distributions; characteristics of normal and skewed distributions.			
Analysis of correlation, including correlation coefficients.			
Levels of measurement: nominal, ordinal and interval.			
Coding in content analysis.			
Statistical testing; When to use and calculation of the sign test.			
Probability and significance: use of statistical tables and critical values in interpretation of significance; Type I / Type II errors.			
Factors affecting the choice of statistical test, including level of measurement and experimental design. When to use the following tests: Spearman's rho, Pearson's r, Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney, related t-test, unrelated t-test and Chi-Squared test.			