

Assignments and Activities - 12

Task 1: Test your understanding

Question 1: What three types of drugs are used to treat depression? What do they have in common?

Question 2: How and where in the brain do benzodiazepines act to reduce anxiety?

Task 2: Documenting Diseases

Schizotypy was introduced to represent the inherited vulnerability to schizophrenia spectrum disorders expressed as a multidimensional personality organization. It may be considered a kind of “psychosis proneness” that captures individual differences in perceptual, cognitive, and affective experiences that may relate to a range of psychotic disorders. Read more about schizotypy in:

- Barrantes-Vidal, N., Grant, P., & Kwapil, T. R. (2015). The role of schizotypy in the study of the etiology of schizophrenia spectrum disorders. *Schizophrenia bulletin*, 41(suppl_2), S408-S416. <https://doi.org/10.1093/schbul/sbu191>

The Oxford-Liverpool Inventory of Feelings and Experiences (O-LIFE) is a valid tool for assessing schizotypal personality in both schizophrenic patients and healthy population. Read more about O-LIFE and use the original English version or the Romanian adaptation from:

- Stanciu, M., & Papasteri, C. C. (2017). Validation of the Romanian Oxford-Liverpool Inventory of Feelings and Experiences (O-LIFE): Description, Psychometric Properties and Factor Structure. *Journal of Evidence-Based Psychotherapies*, 17(1), 67-88. <https://doi.org/10.24193/jebp.2017.1.5>

As argued by a plethora of research there is a robust association between dopamine-related genes and Schizotypy measured by O-LIFE. For example:

- Grant, P., Kuepper, Y., Mueller, E. A., Wielpuezt, C., Mason, O., & Hennig, J. (2013). Dopaminergic foundations of schizotypy as measured by the German version of the Oxford-Liverpool Inventory of Feelings and Experiences (O-LIFE)—a suitable endophenotype of schizophrenia. *Frontiers in human neuroscience*, 7, 1. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2013.00001>

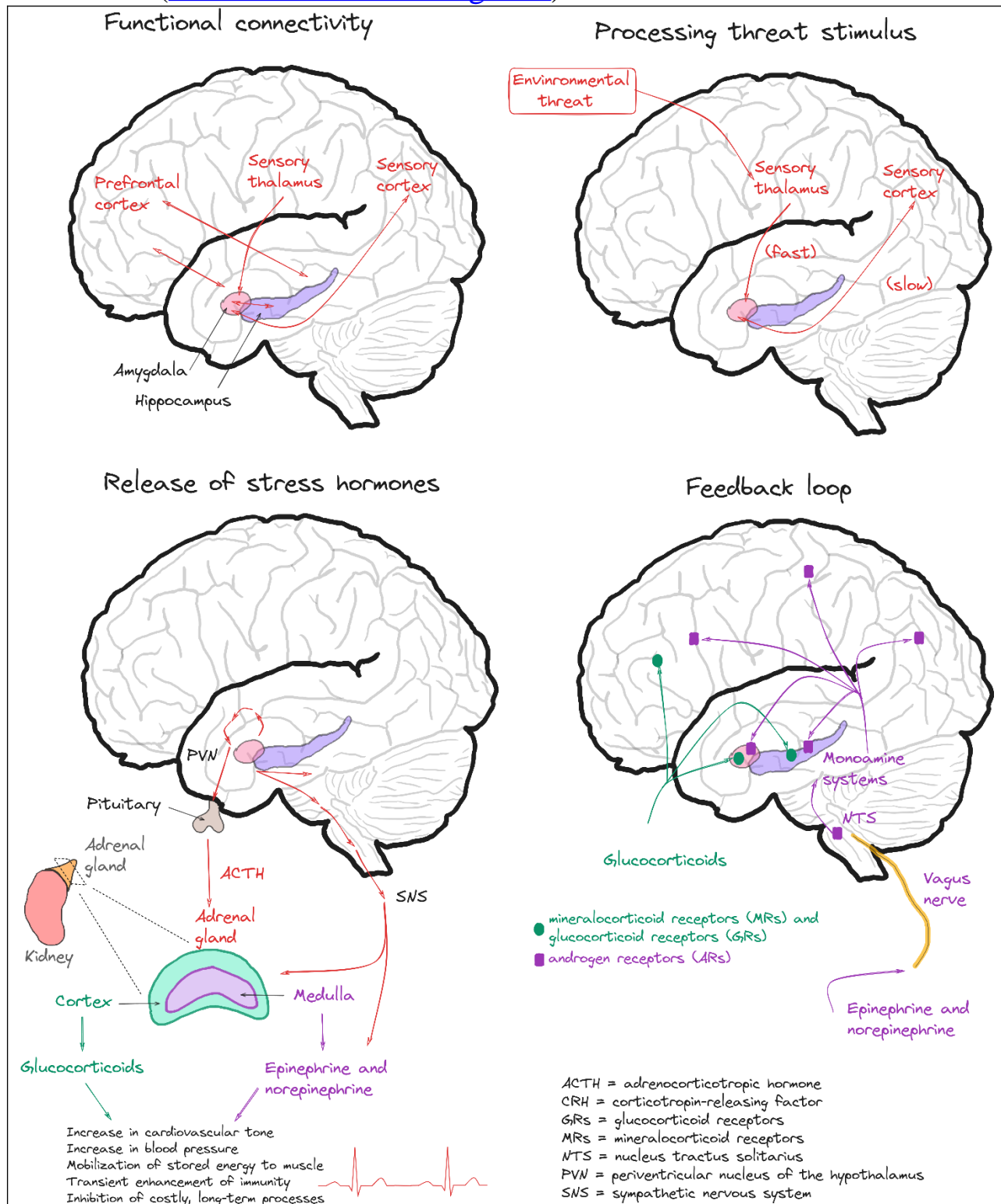
Read the provided articles, self-administer the Unusual Experiences (UnEx; positive symptoms) and Cognitive Disorganization (CogDis; cognitive symptoms) subscales and score them. Respond to the following questions:

1. How might an overactivity of the mesolimbic dopamine pathway, which is implicated in schizophrenia, contribute to the manifestation of unusual experiences reported in individuals with high scores on the UnEx subscale?

2. How might neurocognitive impairments observed in individuals with schizophrenia contribute to the perception and interpretation of unusual experiences? Consider the interplay between cognitive functions and the expression of schizotypal traits.

Task 3: Draw me a Brain Ep. 12

Draw this ([link to editable drawing here](#)):



Your turn: