
1 In the Beginning

1. What is Neuroplasticity?

- Neuroplasticity describes the process by which more or less anything we do regularly and intensively, and sustain over long periods of time, induces physical changes in the very fabric of our brain.

2. What is InGroup and OutGroup?

- InGroup: The group of people you identify with and show loyalty, empathy, and trust toward. (max 150 people)
- OutGroup: The group of people perceived as different or outside your social circle, often treated with less empathy or fairness.

3. What is the role of god/religion in society?

- enforce codes of conduct
- cope with stress and traumatic events.
- organize very large groups humans
- help us to cooperate with the OutGroup.

4. In an increasingly post-religious world where is the incentive to stay on the right side of the seven deadly sins?

- ponder

5. Is science sufficient to inspire us to do the things that keep us happy and healthy?

- ponder

2 Pride

1. Why do we need pride?

- Pride helps use conquering our fears and stay motivated in the face of adversaries.

2. What are the consequences of the sin of pride?

- prevents meaningful relationships with others
- exacerbate other deadly sins

3. When is pride a sin?

- The sin of pride is formed when a person beliefs they are superior to all others.

4. How to foster narcissism through parenting?

- Neglectful- & Helicopter parents prevent the child from forming a healthy independent sense of self.
- When feedback is framed in absolute terms that sound much more permanent: “You are such a naughty child”

5. How does the internet nurture narcissism?

- it promotes vanity which is a contributing factor of narcissism
- e.g. through social media, reality TV, stars...

3 Gluttony

1. What is gluttony?

- Gluttony refers specifically to gulping down food and/or drink in extremely large quantities.

2. Why should one eat food slowly?

- The feeling of satiety arrives only after about 20-30 min.

3. What 2 things does the stress hormone cortisol do to facilitate a loss of self-control?

- it ramps up sensitivity of the reward pathway to the delicious-looking and appetizing aroma of high-calorie foods.
- it weakens lines of communication between the reward pathway and brain areas responsible for reining in the urge to consume those scrumptious temptations.

4. What has sleep to do with gluttony?

- The quality of the previous night's sleep also has a powerful impact on appetite regulation.
- Avoid eating something a few hours before going to bed to improve sleep quality.

5. What does obesity change in the brain?

- Obesity gradually alters the hypothalamus, which regulates appetite, increasing the drive to seek out food.
- This change is irreversible, regardless of exercise or diet.

4 Lust

1. What is white brain matter?

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- white brain matter = information superhighways (150 m/s instead of normal 10 m/s)

2. How does the brain of a paedophile differ from a normal one?

- There are significant differences in the white matter tracts of paedophile brains compared to non-paedophile ones.
- The 'sexual response network' brain areas that govern healthy sexual responses in the rest of us seem to be hyperactive in the paedophile, even at rest.

3. How does the attractiveness ratings of men change in the different menstrual cycles?

- During the fertile phase of the cycle, the attractiveness ratings the women gave for more masculine-looking faces, bodies and deeper-sounding voices increased slightly.
- On the other hand, during the non-fertile weeks of the menstrual cycle, the attractiveness ratings for the more feminine male faces, bodies and voices increased slightly.

5 Sloth

1. When can sloth be virtuous?

- When the promise of future sloth, incentivises us to work harder right now.

2. How does long-term unemployment impact our personality?

- It has a negative impact on conscientiousness.

3. What is sloth?

- Sloth: the opportunity to do something productive must have been shirked willingly, under circumstances where not bothering was a choice freely made.