

Study Questions for Chapter 12

- ~ Define *personality*, noting how it involves thought, feeling, and behavior, and explain the difference between describing and explaining personality.
- ~ Compare *self-report* measures of personality and *projective* measures of personality, note some strengths and weaknesses of both approaches, and provide examples of each type of personality measure.
- ~ Describe the *trait* approach to studying personality; include in your description how language classification has been used to discover core traits, and Eysenck's simplified model of personality.
- ~ List the *Big Five* personality dimensions, provide examples of each, and discuss some surface indicators of personality.
- ~ Discuss the evidence regarding the heritability of personality traits, noting the contributions of both genes and environment to the development of personality traits.
- ~ Discuss how an evolutionary perspective might account for gender differences in some personality traits as well as personality in animals.
- ~ Discuss the relationship between cortical arousal and extraversion, and relate these findings to underlying *behavioral activation* and *behavioral inhibition systems*.
- ~ Describe the *psychodynamic* structure of the mind, explaining the functions and properties of the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*.
- ~ Describe seven *defense mechanisms*, provide an example of each, and explain how each helps reduce anxiety for an individual.
- ~ Describe the five stages of *psychosexual development*, provide an example of the conflicts that occur during each stage, and discuss how *fixation* is a possibility at each stage.
- ~ Explain the *Oedipus conflict*, and note how it played a central role in the psychodynamic view of personality.
- ~ Explain the basic approach to personality adopted by *humanistic* psychologists; include in your explanation a description of *self-actualization* and states of *flow*.
- ~ Compare and contrast the humanistic approach to personality with the *existential* approach.

- ~ Explain the basic tenets of the *social cognitive approach* to personality and discuss how the notions of *person-situation controversy*, *personal constructs*, *outcome expectancies*, and *locus of control* illustrate aspects of this general approach.
- ~ Describe how the *self-concept* is organized; include the concepts of *self-narrative*, *self-schemas*, and *self-verification*.
- ~ Describe the difference between self-concept and *self-esteem*; list some sources of self-esteem and some advantages of having high self-esteem.
- ~ Define the *self-serving bias*, and draw parallels between it and *narcissism*.
- ~ Define and give several examples of *implicit egotism*.