Psych Exam Topics

Unit 3:

1. **Biological Influences on Behaviour**

Structure and Function of the Nervous System

* Central Nervous System
* Brain
* Spinal Cord
* Peripheral Nervous System
* Somatic Nervous System
* Autonomic Nervous System: Sympathetic & Parasympathetic

Processes of Neural Transmission

* Role of Synapses
* Role of Neurotransmitters: Serotonin & Dopamine

Roles of the Four Lobes of the Cerebral Cortex

* Frontal Lobe: Broca’s Area & Primary Motor Cortex
* Parietal Lobe: Primary Sensory Cortex
* Occipital Lobe: Primary Visual Cortex
* Temporal Lobe: Wernicke’s Area & Primary Auditory Cortex

Factors that affect Behaviour, Emotion and Thought

* Heredity: The role of genetics
* Hormones: The effects of Adrenaline and Noradrenaline
* Psychoactive Drugs: The effects of Depressants, Stimulants and Hallucinogens

1. **Cognition**

Psychological Concepts and Processes associated with Memory and their relationship to Behaviour

* Multi-Store Model of Memory: Atkinson and Shiffrin, 1968
* Sensory Register: Duration, Capacity & Encoding
* Short-Term Memory: Duration, Capacity & Encoding
* Working Memory Model: Baddely & Hitch (1974)
* Craik & Lockhart’s Levels of Processing Theory (1972)
* Long-Term Memory: Duration, Capacity & Encoding

+ Procedural Memory

+ Declarative Memory: Semantic & Episodic

+ Motivated Forgetting

* Measures of Retention: Recall, Recognition and Relearning (Harold Burtt (1941) & Savings Score
* Forgetting: Retrieval Failure, Interference, Motivated Forgetting, Decay
* Enhancing Memory Retrieval (Godden & Baddely – 1975 & Bower - 1981)
* Serial Position Effect – Miller 7 +/- 2 rule, Glanzer & Cunitz 1966

Theories and Processes of Learning

* Classical Conditioning
* Operant Conditioning
* Observational Learning

Techniques for Modifying Behaviour

* Token Economies
* Systematic Desensitisation
* Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)
* Positive and Negative Reinforcement, including Rewards and Punishments

1. **Others**

Types of Solutions to Resolve Conflict

* Imposed
* Distributive
* Integrative

Techniques for Resolving Conflict

* Mediation
* Negotiation
* Counselling

Attachment Theories

* Evolutoinary theory of attachment (Bowlby, Harlow, Lorenz)
* The Strange Situation (Ainsworth)
* Bowlby’s Attachment Theories
* Harlow’s Monkeys
* Lorenz’s Geese (imprinting)

Parenting Styles and their Features (Baumrind)

* Authoritative, authoritarian, permissive

1. **Communication**

Communication Styles

* Genderlect (Tannen)
* Elaborative and Restrictive Code (Bernstein)
* BEV (Labov)

Persuasive Communication (Hovland & Yale – 1981)

* Source of the message
* Nature of the communication
* Characteristics of the audience
* Channel of the Message

Petty & Cacciopo (1986)

* Central & Peripheral Route Processing

Features and Limitations of Theories of Language Acquisition

* LAD: Chomsky
* LASS: Bruner

Unit 4:

**Self**

1. **Developmental Psychology**

Stages and Characteristics of Developmental Theories

* Piaget: Cognitive Development
* Kohlberg: Moral Development
* Erikson: Psychosocial Development

Features of Bandura’s Social Learning Theory

* The Role of Observational Learning and Modelling

1. **Personality**

Features and Limitations of Contemporary Personality Theorists

* Trait Theories: McCrae and Costa – CANOE/OCEAN
* Humanistic Theories: Rogers (1961) and Maslow (1943)
* Social-Cognitive Theories: Mischel (1998) and Bandura (1986)

**Others**

1. **Social Psychology**

The influence of Groups on Behavior

* Group Polarisation
* Conformity: Asch
* Obedience: Milgram and Zimbardo
* Impact of the Presence of Others on Individual Behaviour: Social Facilitation and Inhibition – Norman Triplett (1878 & 1898) and Michaels et. Al – Mere Presence Theory, Cottrell & ZaJonc

Theories of Social Psychology

* Attribution Theory: Heider (1958), Fiske & Taylor (1991)
* Limitations of Attribution Theory (FAE etc.)
* Kelley’s Model of Covariation (1967)
* Congnitive Dissonance Theory: Leon Festinger, 1957 (Culture & Values)

Sense of Community as Defined by MacMillan and Travis

* Membership
* Influence
* Integration and the Fulfillment of needs
* Shared Emotional Connection

Impact of Significant events on Individuals and Communities

* Positive Responses: Resilience and Post Traumatic Growth
* Negative Responses: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
* Event characteristics contributing to stress: Predictability, Controlability, Experience of Threat or Loss

**Research Methods**

**8. Planning and Conducting Psychological Research**

Research Terminology:

* Experimental, Non-Experimental
* Scientific, Non-Scientific
* Sample
* Population

Ethics in Psychology Research

* Role of the Experimenter
* Participants’ Rights: Privacy, Anonymity, Confidentiality, Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal Rights
* Informed Consent Procedures
* Deception in Research
* Professional Conduct

Practical Issues associated with Planning and Conducting Research

Difference between Sample and Population Data

Features of Experimental Research Methods:

* Independent and Dependant Variables
* Operational Hypothesis
* Controlled and Uncontrolled Variables
* Experimental and Control Groups
* Placebo and Experimenter Effects
* Reliability and Validity
* Longitudinal and Cross-Sectional Designs

Features of Non-Experimental (Descriptive) Research Methods

* Case Studies, Surveys, Correlational Studies and Archival Research
* Behavioural Variables (not DV/IV) in Correlational Studies

Methods of Data Collection:

* Qualitative
* Objective Quantitative: Physiological Measures
* Subjective Quanitative: Checklists, Rating Scales e.g. Likert Scale

**9. Processing and Evaluating Psychological Research**

Methods of Displaying Quantitative Data: Tables, Graphs & Diagrams

Data Interpretation:

* Measures of Central Tendancy: Mode, Mean & Median
* Measures of Dispersion/Spread: Normal Curve, Range, Variance & Standard Deviation
* Role of Probability

Use of Correlation to establish Association Between Variales

Sources of Error and ways of Reducing These

The Concept of Statistical Significant (P-Value)

Evaluating of and Ways of Improving Research