

Psychology - Paper 2 (Social Context and behaviour)

Content	Notes? (Y/N)	RAG
Social influence		
<i>Conformity:</i>		
Identification and explanation of how social factors and dispositional factors affect conformity to majority influence		
Asch's study of conformity		
<i>Obedience:</i>		
Milgram's Agency theory of social factors affecting obedience		
Explanation of dispositional factors affecting obedience		
<i>Prosocial behaviour:</i>		
Bystander behaviour		
Piliavin's subway study		
<i>Crowd and collective behaviour:</i>		
Prosocial and antisocial behaviour in crowds		

Language, thought and communication		
<i>The possible relationship between language and thought:</i>		
Piaget's theory: language depends on thought		
The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis: thinking depends on language		
<i>The effect of language and thought on our view of the world:</i>		
Variation in recall of events and recognition of colours		
<i>Differences between human and animal communication:</i>		
Limited functions of animal communication (survival, reproduction, territory, food).		
Von Frisch's bee study		
Properties of human communication not present in animal communication e.g. plan ahead and discuss future events.		
<i>Non-verbal communication:</i>		
Definitions of non-verbal communication and verbal communication.		
Functions of eye contact including regulating flow of conversation, signalling attraction and expressing emotion.		
Body language including open and closed posture, postural echo and touch.		
Personal space including cultural, status and gender differences.		
<i>Explanations of non-verbal behaviour:</i>		
Darwin's evolutionary theory of non-verbal communication was evolved and adaptive.		
Evidence that non-verbal behaviour is innate, e.g., in neonates and the sensory deprived.		
Evidence that non-verbal behaviour is learned. Yuki's study of emoticons.		

Brain and neuropsychology		
<i>Structure and function of the nervous system:</i>		
The divisions of the human nervous system: central and peripheral (somatic and autonomic), basic functions of these divisions.		

The autonomic nervous system and the fight or flight response. The James-Lange theory of emotion.		
<i>Neuron structure and function:</i>		
Sensory, relay and motor neurons.		
Synaptic transmission: release and reuptake of neurotransmitters.		
Excitation and inhibition. An understanding of how these processes interact.		
Hebb's theory of learning and neuronal growth.		
<i>Structure and function of the brain:</i>		
Brain structure: frontal lobe, temporal lobe, parietal lobe, occipital lobe and cerebellum. Basic function of these structures.		
Localisation of function in the brain: motor, somatosensory, visual, auditory and language areas.		
Penfield's study of the interpretive cortex.		
<i>An introduction to neuropsychology:</i>		
Cognitive neuroscience: how the structure and function of the brain relate to behaviour and cognition.		
The use of scanning techniques to identify brain functioning: CT, PET and fMRI scans.		
Tulving's 'gold' memory study.		
A basic understanding of how neurological damage, eg stroke or injury can affect motor abilities and behaviour.		

Psychological problems		
<i>An introduction to mental health:</i>		
<i>How the incidence of significant mental health problems changes over time:</i>		
Characteristics of mental health, e.g. positive engagement with society, effective coping with challenges.		
Cultural variations in beliefs about mental health problems.		
Increased challenges of modern living, e.g. isolation. Increased recognition of the nature of mental health problems and lessening of social stigma.		
<i>Effects of significant mental health problems on individuals and society:</i>		
Characteristics of clinical depression:		
Differences between unipolar depression, bipolar depression and sadness.		
The use of International Classification of Diseases in diagnosing unipolar depression: number and severity of symptoms including low mood, reduced energy levels, changes in sleep patterns and appetite levels, decrease in self-confidence.		
<i>Theories of depression:</i>		
<i>Interventions or therapies for depression:</i>		
Biological explanation (influence of nature): imbalance of neurotransmitters, e.g. serotonin in the brain.		
Psychological explanation (influence of nurture): negative schemas and attributions.		
Use of antidepressant medications.		
Cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT).		
How these improve mental health, reductionist and holistic perspectives. Wiles' study of the effectiveness of CBT		
<i>Characteristics of addiction:</i>		
The difference between addiction/dependence and substance misuse/abuse.		

The use of International Classification of Diseases in diagnosing addiction (dependence syndrome), including a strong desire to use substance(s) despite harmful consequences, difficulty in controlling use, a higher priority given to the substance(s) than to other activities or obligations.		
<i>Theories of addiction: Interventions or therapies for addiction:</i>		
Biological explanation (influence of nature): hereditary factors/genetic vulnerability. Kaij's twin study of alcohol abuse.		
Psychological explanation (influence of nurture): Peer influence.		
Aversion therapy.		
Self-management programmes, eg self-help groups, 12 step recovery programmes.		
How these improve mental health, reductionist and holistic perspectives.		