

Biological Psychology

Checklist

The central nervous system (CNS) and neurotransmitters in
human behaviour, including the structure and role of the
neuron, the function of neurotransmitters and synaptic
transmission.

- The effect of recreational drugs on the transmission process in the central nervous system.
- The structure of the brain, different brain areas (e.g. prefrontal cortex) and brain functioning as an explanation of aggression as a human behaviour.
- The role of evolution and natural selection to explain human behaviour, including aggression.
- Biological explanation of aggression as an alternative to Freud's psychodynamic explanation, referring to the different parts of the personality (id, ego, superego), the importance of the unconscious, and catharsis.
- The role of hormones (e.g. testosterone) to explain human behaviour such as aggression.
- Individual differences; Damage to the brain may be affected by individual differences in case studies of brain-damaged patients when it is assumed there are no individual differences. Freud's view of the personality shows it develops individual differences.
- Developmental psychology; The role of evolution in human development. The role of hormones in human development





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The use of the correlational research method in psychology, including co-variables.
Types of correlation: positive, negative and including the use

Issues surrounding the use of correlations in psychology; issues with cause and effect, other variables.

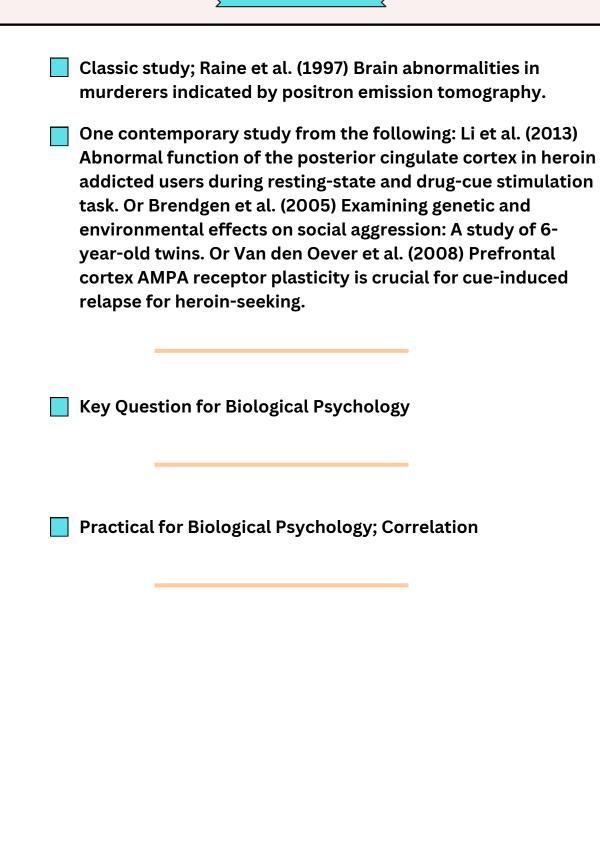
of scatter diagrams.

- Analysis of, use of, and drawing conclusions from correlational studies, including scatter diagrams, using inferential statistical testing (use of Spearman's rho) and issues of statistical significance; levels of measurement; critical and observed values.
- The use of alternate, experimental and null hypotheses. The use of IV and DV in experiments and co-variables in correlations. The use of control groups, randomising to groups, sampling, levels of measurement (ordinal, interval, nominal), reasons for using Spearman's rho.
- Other biological research methods; Brain-scanning techniques (CAT, PET, and fMRI).
- The use of brain-scanning techniques to investigate human behaviour, e.g. aggression.
- One twin study and one adoption study, e.g. Gottesman and Shields (1966); Ludeke et al. (2013).





Checklist



Do not forget to consider the Issues and Debates

