

Exam 2 Study Guide

Elementary Psychology 12000-003

Ch 4: Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity

- Know what chromosomes, genes, DNA, and genomes are, and how they are interrelated.
- Explain what behavioral genetics and molecular genetics refer to and what questions they help us understand.
- Explain the difference between gender and biological sex.
- What are the main tenets of evolutionary psychology?
- Know gender similarities and differences in aggression, social power, and social connectedness.
- How do twin studies and adoption studies inform research on the relative effects of genes versus the environment on human behavior?
 - What are the main findings of twin studies and adoption studies?
- What is a gene-environment interaction?
- What do natural selection and artificial selection refer to?
- Know the roles that the prenatal environment, parenting, one's peer group, and culture play in shaping human development.
- What is heritability?

Ch. 5: Developing Through the Life Span

- Identify and describe the big three issues that developmental psychologists study (e.g., continuity/stages etc)
- What types of research methods do investigators use to assess cognitive ability in infants? (e.g., habituation)
- Explain the physical development of humans, including brain development, motor development, hormonal changes, maturation, and memory.
- Understand the difference between assimilation and accommodation.
- What distinguishes between secure and insecure attachment styles? How are attachment styles investigated with infants? What is the significance of Harlow's monkey studies?
- What are the stage theories of Piaget, Erickson, Kohlberg, and Freud?
- How do parents, daycare, and peers influence our identity formation?

Ch. 6: Sensation and Perception

- What is the point of the "dark restaurant story" that Dr. Williams told?
- What is the difference between top-down and bottom-up processing? How does memory or expectations influence processing?
- How is sensation different from perception?
- Distinguish between absolute, subliminal, and difference thresholds
- What's a jnd (just noticeable difference)?
- What is Weber's law?
- What is visual prosopagnosia and how does it relate to sensation and perception?
- Define parallel processing and discuss its role in visual information processing.
- What are the basic differences between the trichromatic theory and the opponent-process theory?
- Be able to identify the basic parts and functions of eyes and ears.

- What is the purpose of pain and what is the gate-control theory?
- What did research on chili peppers and supertasters tell us about pain therapy (video)?
- How is smell related to memory?
- Describe the relationship between Gestalt psychology and perception.
- Know the following Gestalt principles: similarity, proximity, continuity, closure, area, figure versus ground, and symmetry.
- What is depth perception and describe the visual cliff research.
- How do we perceive motion? What is the phi phenomenon?
- Explain the importance of perceptual constancy and perceptual adaptation.
- How has sensory deprivation and restored vision research helped our understanding of the nature-nurture debate?