

Sample Questions

Revision for Unit 1 Exam, 2016

Mental Illness

- 1 What are the five elements that are included in the overall definition of a mental illness?
- 2 What is the DSM? How is diagnosing mental illness potentially useful? How might it be harmful?
- 3 According to the medical approach to defining normality, what is the underlying reason why some people suffer from mental disorders?
- 4 Give an example of a mental illness, describing the symptoms, the risk factors (with reference to the biopsychosocial model) and the treatments that have been found to be effective. Show how the symptoms fit with the five characteristics of a mental illness (psychological dysfunction, distress, impaired functioning, atypical behaviour, socially or culturally inappropriate behaviour).
- 5 What is the two-hit hypothesis?

Piaget and Erikson

- 6 In what way/s are Piaget's and Erikson's theories alike?
- 7 What does the word "cognitive" mean? What is an example of cognitive development?
- 8 What did Erikson mean by the terms **psychosocial crisis**, **favourable outcome** and **unfavourable outcome**?
- 9 A child cannot recognise that a spread-out line of coins still has the same number of coins as it had before the line was altered. What kind of limitations in thinking is the child showing?
- 10 What kinds of limitations and achievements are evident in each of Piaget's stages? For instance, what flaws in thinking does a preoperational child show? What abilities does he/she display in comparison to the younger, sensorimotor child?

Research

- 11 What are the different kinds of research that are undertaken in psychology?
- 12 In an experiment investigating the impact of caffeine on teachers at BHHS who are writing reports, it is found that the teachers who imbibe no caffeine write fewer reports than those who do. It is later discovered, however, that the teachers who had drunk no coffee had drunk several glasses of wine each evening. What was the original **independent variable** and the original **dependent variable** of this experiment? What may have been a **confounding variable**?
- 13 In the study above (12), only 20 teachers were participants in the experiment, although our school has more than 80 teachers. What is the group of 20 teachers called, as opposed to the total group of research interest?
- 14 What are the advantages of carrying out an **experiment**, as opposed to a **correlational study**?
- 15 Give examples of **ethical guidelines** that must be followed in a psychology experiment.

Brain

- 16 How does the **myelin sheath** affect the transmission of information in the brain?
- 17 What are the main functions of the **frontal lobe**?
- 18 How does a **split-brain** patient react to something shown only to his/her left visual field?
- 19 What is the difference between the **sympathetic** and the **parasympathetic nervous systems**?
- 20 What is the difference between the **autonomic nervous system** and the **somatic nervous system**?
- 21 What is **brain plasticity** and how does it relate to all people, regardless of age?
- 22 How has our understanding of the brain changed over time and what new technologies have made this possible?