1B Psych

Outline principles that define the biological level of analysis (BLOA) and explain how they can be demonstrated by research.

Principle 1

- Biological origins of behavior
- Reductionism - reduce ALL behavior to biology

Research

- Newcomer et al. (1991)
  Save cortisol (stress hormone) pills to groups
  Group 1 (high), Group 2 (low), Group 3 (placebo)
  Listened to a paragraph
  When asked to remember, Group 1 did worst
  Why? Cortisol has negative effect on memory

Principle 2

- Animal research can provide insight into human behavior
- Can't test on humans b/c ethics

- Rosenzweig & company (1972)
  Don't replicate spatial stress in 2 conditions
  Enriched vs. deprived
  Spent 60 days in environment, then killed
  Looked at brains, enriched → more neurons

Principle 3

- Human behavior, to some extent, is genetically based

- Bouchard et al. (1990)
  Minnesota twin study
  Concordance rate (trait present in both twins)

  MZ (monozygotic) together = 86% conc rate
  MZ apart = 76% conc rate

6 says genes are predisposing factor - doesn't consider effect of environment