

IB Psych

Outline principles that define the biological level of analysis (BLOA)
+ 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)
 - gave 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

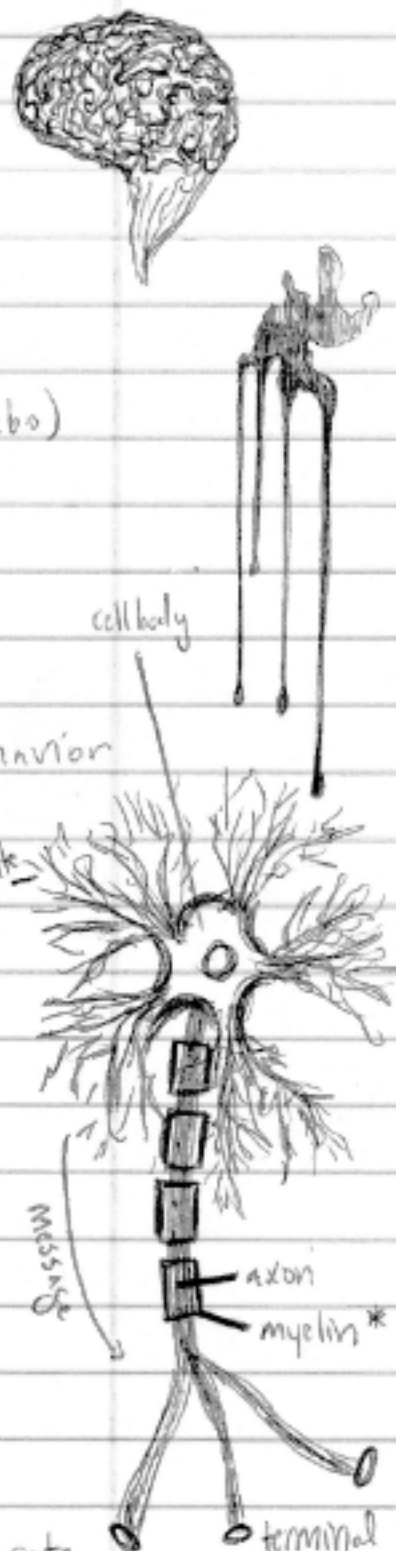
- animal research can provide insight into human behavior
- can't test on humans b/c ethics

- rosenzweig and kretch (1972)
 - brain plasticity of rats in 2 conditions
 - (enriched or deprived)
 - spent 60 days in environment, then killed
 - looked @ brains, enriched → more neurons

Principle 3

- human behavior, to some extent, is genetically based

- bowchard et al (1990)
 - Minnesota twin study
 - concordance rate (trait present in both twins)
 - MZ (monozygotic) → together = 86% conc. rate
 - MZ apart = 76% conc. rate
 - ↳ says genes are predisposing factor - doesn't consider effect of environment



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