

MODULE 2 BIG ISSUES AND APPROACHES

PSYCHOLOGY'S BIGGEST QUESTION

- NATURE-NURTURE ISSUE is the controversy over the relative contributions that genes and experience make to the development of psychological traits and behaviors.
- Charles Darwin explained NATURAL SELECTION, or selective traits that best enable an organism to survive and reproduce in a particular environment due to the evolutionary process.
- “Nurture works on what nature endows.”

PSYCHOLOGY'S THREE MAIN LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

- LEVELS OF ANALYSIS is the differing complementary views, from biological to psychological to social-cultural, for analyzing any given phenomenon, known as the BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL APPROACH.
- BEHAVIORAL perspective might attempt to determine which external stimuli trigger angry responses or aggressive acts.
- BIOLOGICAL perspective might attempt to determine the links between biological and psychological processes.
- COGNITIVE perspective might attempt to determine the mental activities associated with thinking, knowing, remembering, and communicating.
- EVOLUTIONARY perspective might attempt to determine the evolution of behavior and mind, using principles of natural selection.
- HUMANISTIC perspective (see Module 1)
- PSYCHODYNAMIC perspective is a branch of psychology that studies how unconscious drives and conflicts influence behavior, and uses that information to treat people with psychological disorders.
- SOIOCULTURAL perspective is the study of how situations and cultures affect our behavior and thinking.

PSYCHOLOGY'S SUBFIELDS

- PSYCHOMETRICS perspective is the study of the measurement of human abilities, attitudes, and traits.
- BASIC RESEARCH is pure science that aims to increase the scientific knowledge base.
 1. BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS (see above)
 2. DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGISTS is a branch of psychology that studies physical, cognitive, and social change throughout the life span.
 3. COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGISTS (see above)
 4. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS is the study of how psychological processes affect and can enhance teaching and learning.

5. **PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGISTS** is individual's characteristic pattern of thinking, feeling, and acting.
6. **SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS** is exploring how we view and affect one another.
 - **APPLIED RESEARCH** is scientific study that aims to solve practical problems.
 - **INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATION PSYCHOLOGISTS** is the application of psychological concepts and methods to optimizing human behavior in workplaces.
 - **HUMAN FACTORS PSYCHOLOGISTS** explores how people and machines interact and how machines and physical environments can be made safe and easy to use.
 - **COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGISTS** help people to cope with challenges and crises and to improve their personal and social functioning.
 - **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS** assess and treat mental, emotional, and behavior disorders.
 - **PSYCHIATRISTS** may provide psychotherapy, are medical doctors licensed to prescribe drugs and otherwise treat physical causes of psychological disorders.
 - Dorothea Dix pioneered Therapy units while Philippe Pinel led the way to humane treatment of those with psychological disorders.
 - Martin Seligman pushed for **POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY** which explores scientifically positive emotions, positive character traits, and enabling institutions.
 - **COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGISTS** work to create social and physical environments that are healthy for all.

BE ABLE TO ANSWER: What are psychology's major levels of analysis?

PRACTICE FRQ'S: George is said to have an "easy-going" personality. How might the biopsychosocial approach be used to explain an easy-going personality?