**PREP work**

**Psychopathology -** The biological approach to explaining and treating obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)



***Make notes on the material below using the Psychopathology information pack and the information & videos on*** <http://www.psych205.com/explanations-and-treatments-of-disorders.html> ***Alternatively, you can use the QR code opposite to access the website.***

***Once you feel confident that you understand and can remember the following information, tick the relevant box.***

**These notes will provide you with the core knowledge you need for the lessons on this topic.**

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| **Learning outcome** | **Notes complete** | **How well do you understand this?**  **Write RED, AMBER or GREEN** |
| **Explaining OCD** | | |
| What are the main assumptions of the biological approach?  (see prep page) |  |  |
| Write definitions for the following key terms:  *concordance rate, first-degree relatives, monozygotic twins, dizygotic twins, polygenic, , orbitofrontal cortex, basal ganglia, caudate nucleus & thalamus.* |  |  |
| What are the two main causes of OCD according to the biological approach? |  |  |
| According to genetic explanations, what is the reason for people developing OCD? |  |  |
| Why are family studies used to investigate the genetic link in OCD? |  |  |
| Outline the findings of the Nestadt et al (2000) study. |  |  |
| Why are twin studies used to investigate the genetic link in OCD? |  |  |
| Outline the findings of the Carey and Gottesman (1981) study. |  |  |
| Why is it difficult to understand exactly how genes are linked to OCD? |  |  |
| What do we mean by ‘neural’ explanations? |  |  |
| What is the name of the neurotransmitter that is thought to be involved in OCD? How is this neurotransmitter linked to OCD? |  |  |
| Write definitions for the following key terms:  *orbitofrontal cortex, basal ganglia, caudate nucleus & thalamus.* |  |  |
| What is the function of the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC)? How does this relate to OCD? |  |  |
| Draw apicture of the brain and label where the following parts: orbitofrontal cortex, basal ganglia, caudate nucleus & thalamus. |  |  |
| In your own words, summarise the neurophysiological explanation using the following terms: OFC, basal ganglia, caudate nucleus and thalamus. |  |  |
| **Treating OCD** | | |
| What are SSRI’s and how do they work as a treatment for OCD? Make sure you mention key terms |  |  |

***Challenge task:*** Investigate an alternative explanation and/or treatment for OCD and make notes on this.

Your notes should also include:

* Evidence to support this explanation/treatment.
* A comparison of the pros and cons of both the biological explanations/treatment and the new alternative explanation/treatment.