

PREP WORK – OCD. CHARACTERISTICS, EXPLANATIONS AND TREATMENTS

Characteristics of OCD

1. What is OCD?
2. Explain 2 behavioural characteristics of OCD,
3. Explain 2 cognitive characteristics of OCD and
4. Explain 2 emotional characteristics of OCD

Explaining OCD

1. What are the main assumptions of the biological approach? (go to the psych205 prep page for this or look in the paper 2 information pack on psych205.

Genetic explanations

1. According to genetic explanations, what is the reason for people developing OCD?
2. Why are family studies used to investigate the genetic link in OCD?
3. What are concordance rates?
4. What is the difference between monozygotic and dizygotic twins
5. How do Psychologists used concordance rates and family studies to investigate the genetic link in OCD?
6. What are the concordance rates found by Carey and Gottesman
7. Interpret the percentages - what do these concordance rates mean about the cause of OCD?

Neural explanations

The role of neurotransmitters

1. What is a neurotransmitter? What do they do?
2. What is the name of the neurotransmitter that is thought to be involved in OCD?
3. Is the theory that people with OCD have too much or too little of this neurotransmitter?
4. Which specific symptoms does this lead to?

The worry Circuit

1. Which areas of the brain have been identified as involved in OCD
2. What is the job/function of each area you have named?
3. Which specific part of the above is suggested to not be working normally for someone with OCD?
4. Draw a picture of a brain and label where each part you have named is found.

Treatments of OCD

1. What Does SSRI stand for?
2. Do SSRI's increase or decrease the activity of serotonin?
3. How do they do the above – Watch the clip on Psych205.com? <https://youtu.be/MumiqqstRxw> (**synaptic transmission** is tricky to understand we'll have fun with this in class). If you type synaptic transmission into youtube there are many animations that will help.
4. As a result what symptom/s will this help?