TOPIC: CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

Cultural Psychology (1980's)		
A field of psychology that focuses on how influences human behavior and mental processes.		
Historical Context		
Early psychologists <i>did</i> consider the impact of culture, but behaviorism overshadowed this topic. In the 1950's - 70's some psychologists began studying culture, often usingpology as a guide.		
Evolutionary psychology became a formal field by the 1980's.		
Main Research Question		
How does culture behavior and psychological processes?		
Important Founders		
Wilhelm Wundt (1832 – 1920)	John Berry (1939 –)	Richard Shweder (1945 -)
Believed studying mental processes required cultural In early 1900's he wrote a book on how culture shapes psychological processes.	Developed an framework– examined how ecology and culture impact cognition and behavior. Studied acculturation – how people when exposed to a new culture.	Argued that psychological theories couldn't be broadly generalized. Advocated for examining psychological phenomena within cultural contexts.

EXAMPLE

True or False (if false, choose the answer that best corrects the statement): Wilhelm Wundt (the Father of Psychology) was one of the earliest pioneers of cultural psychology.

- a) True.
- b) False; There is no record of psychologists studying culture until the 1950's 1970's.
- c) False; Sigmund Freud was one of the earliest pioneers of cultural psychology.

TOPIC: BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Biological Perspective / Neuroscience (1990's)		
A field that studies the relationship between the/nervous system, and behavior or mental processes.		
Historical Context		
Early neuroscience often involved studying brains that had been (accidentally or purposefully) in humans and animals.		
Advancements in computers and other technology has caused the field to grow rapidly since the 1990's.		
Main Research Question		
What are the mechanisms underlying behavior and mental processes?		
Important Founder		
Santiago Ramón y Cajal (1852 – 1934)		
Known as the father of neuroscience.		
The first to propose that the nervous system is made of cells and to describe the structure of a		
Created thousands of detailed drawings depicting nerve and neural networks.		

For More Detail: See our section on *The Nervous System*.

EXAMPLE

Which of the following research questions would you expect a neuroscientist to ask?

- a) How do societal norms affect conformity and willingness to engage in unethical behavior?
- b) How does parental discipline differ across cultures? In what ways is it similar?
- c) How do neurotransmitters influence mood and behavior?
- d) What role do the kidneys play in regulating blood pressure?