The three approaches: biological, cognitive and sociocultural (Paper 1 Section A)

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Psychology · SL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
concepts /ˈkɒnsepts/	The course links **concepts** like bias and causality.
content /ˈkɒntent/	The **content** of a memory can change over time.
contexts /ˈkɒnteksts/	**Contexts** include health, learning and relationships.
biological approach /ˌbaɪəˈlɒdʒɪkl əˈprəʊtʃ/	The **biological approach** studies the brain and genes.
cognitive approach /ˈkɒgnɪtɪv əˈprəʊtʃ/	The **cognitive approach** studies thinking and memory.
sociocultural approach	The **sociocultural approach** studies how groups and culture shape us.
localisation of function /ˌləʊkəlaɪˈzeɪʃn ɒv ˈfʌŋkʃn/	**Localisation of function** means each brain area has a job.
neuroplasticity /ˌnjuːrəplæˈstɪsɪti/	**Neuroplasticity** lets the brain change with practice.
brain imaging	**Brain imaging** shows which parts of the brain are active.
neurotransmitters /ˈnjuːrətrænsmɪtəz/	**Neurotransmitters** carry messages between nerve cells.
synapse /ˈsɪnæps/	A **synapse** is a small gap between two nerve cells.

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Word	Example
hormones /ˈhɔːməʊnz/	Insulin and adrenaline are **hormones**.
oxytocin /ˌɒksɪˈtɒsɪn/	**Oxytocin** is a hormone linked to trust.
genes /dʒiːnz/	**Genes** control your eye colour.
twin studies /twɪn ˈstʌdiz/	**Twin studies** compare identical and non-identical twins.
gene–environment interaction /dʒiːn enˈvaɪrənmənt ˌɪntəˈrækʃn/	**Gene–environment interaction** means genes and surroundings work together.
models /ˈmɒdlz/	Psychologists use **models** to explain how the mind works.
predictions	A good theory makes **predictions** we can test.
multi-store model /ˈmʌlti stɔː ˈmɒdl/	The **multi-store model** has sensory, short-term and long-term memory.
working memory model /ˈwɜːkɪŋ ˈmeməri ˈmɒdl/	The **working memory model** splits short-term memory into parts.
schema /ˈskiːmə/	A **schema** is a mental plan built from experience.
reconstructive memory /ˌriːkənˈstrʌktɪv ˈmeməri/	**Reconstructive memory** means we rebuild memories and can change them.
heuristics /hjuːˈrɪstɪks/	**Heuristics** are mental shortcuts.
cognitive bias	A **cognitive bias** is an error in thinking.

Word	Example
anchoring bias	**Anchoring bias** makes us rely too much on the first number we hear.
confirmation bias /kɒnfəˈmeɪʃn ˈbaɪəs/	**Confirmation bias** makes us look for evidence we agree with.
leading question /ˈliːdɪŋ ˈkwestʃn/	A **leading question** pushes people toward an answer.
emotion /ɪˈməʊʃn/	Fear is a strong **emotion**.
flashbulb memory	A **flashbulb memory** is a vivid memory of a shocking event.
social identity theory /ˈsəʊʃl aɪˈdentɪti ˈθɪəri/	**Social identity theory** says we get pride from our groups.
in-group favouritism	**In-group favouritism** means treating your own group better.
social learning theory /ˈsəʊʃl ˈlɜːnɪŋ ˈθɪəri/	**Social learning theory** says we learn by watching others.
role model	A **role model** is someone we copy.
attention /əˈtenʃn/	To learn by watching, you need **attention** first.
retention /rɪˈtenʃn/	**Retention** means remembering what you saw.
reproduction /rɪprəˈdʌkʃn/	**Reproduction** means copying the behaviour.
motivation /ˌməʊtɪˈveɪʃn/	Rewards can raise a student's **motivation** to learn.
social norm	A **social norm** is an unwritten rule of behaviour.

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Word	Example
conformity /kənˈfɔːmɪti/	**Conformity** means going along with the group.
collectivist	A **collectivist** culture puts the group first.
individualist	An **individualist** culture puts the person first.
culture /ˈkʌltʃə/	**Culture** is the shared way of life of a group.
enculturation /enˌkʌltʃəˈreɪʃn/	**Enculturation** is learning your own culture as you grow up.
acculturation /əˌkʌltʃəˈreɪʃn/	**Acculturation** is adapting to a new culture.
perspective /pəˈspektɪv/	Explain the problem from the shop owner's **perspective**.