Concepts and contexts

IB DP Psychology SL the six concepts and four contexts, Paper 1 Sections B and C

280 million people

> Three explanations, three treatments.

- Brain disease? Way of thinking? Hard life?
- Each answer points to a different treatment.

Concepts and contexts

> Concepts are questions; contexts are real-world areas.

- Six concepts, four contexts.
- Section B: 2×6 marks. Section C: one 15-mark essay.

Six questions to ask

> Use the concepts to evaluate, not to describe.

- **Bias**, **causality**, **change**.
- Measurement, perspective, responsibility.

Validity and reliability

> Right thing measured? Same result again?

- **Validity**: measures what it claims to.
- **Reliability**: same result when repeated.

Stress slows healing

> Carers healed about nine days slower.

- 13 dementia carers, 13 similar women.
- Cortisol weakens the **immune system**.

Depression, three explanations

Each approach has its own evidence.

- Genes and serotonin; Beck's **cognitive triad**.
- Hard lives and weak support: Brown and Harris.

Brown and Harris: vulnerability

> A life event hit harder with weak support.

- Working-class women in London.
- Four **vulnerability factors**.

Diathesis and stress

> The same stress hits a vulnerable person harder.

- Diathesis: genes or negative schemas.
- It lowers the stress needed.

Treatment and diagnosis

> Treatments follow explanations.

- SSRIs, CBT, social support; often combined.
- Symptom lists can miss cases across cultures.

Theory of mind: Sally–Anne

> Where will Sally look for her marble?

- 85% of typical children: "the basket".
- Only 20% of autistic children.

How to measure theory of mind

> The answer depends on the measure.

- Verbal task: age 4.
- Eye gaze and looking time: earlier.

Attachment across cultures

> The **Strange Situation** may carry an American **bias**.

- Secure, avoidant, resistant.
- More avoidant in Germany, more resistant in Japan.

The bystander effect

> More listeners, less help.

- Alone: 85% helped in time.
- With four others: 31%.

Obedience: Milgram

> Two thirds went to 450 volts.

- 40 men, shocks they believed were real.
- Lower with the learner close or a peer refusing.

Robbers Cave: shared goals

> Meeting was not enough; working together was.

- Competition for prizes: hostility.
- **Superordinate goals**: conflict fell.

Two kinds of conditioning

> Pair a signal, or reward a behaviour.

- Classical: Pavlov's dogs and a sound.
- Operant: rewarded behaviour grows.

The testing effect

> Recalling beats re-reading.

- Read four times, or read once and recall three times.
- One week later: 61% against 40%.

The Google effect

> We remember where, not what.

- Expecting the computer to save facts.
- Less recall of the facts themselves.

Section B: apply it

> Use details from the situation.

- Pick the right content and explain it.
- Do not just describe a study.

Section C: a worked plan

> Is one **perspective** enough for mental health?

- Genes: about 38% of risk.
- Caspi: biology plus stress.

Check yourself

Can you do each of these?

- Six concepts as questions; **validity** and **reliability**.
- One study per context, with numbers.