Personality, family influence

Will be tested on Exam 3, not Exam 2

Personality traits

- Traits:
  - Relatively stable patterns of thought, feeling, or behavior that characterize someone

- The Big Five
  - Openness to experience
  - Conscientiousness
  - Extraversion
  - Agreeableness
  - Neuroticism

Personality is ...

- Fairly heritable
  - Shared genes predict shared traits

- Fairly stable across time
  - Example: Ability to delay gratification at age 4-5 predicts lots of good outcomes

- But still shaped by lots of factors
  - Including the situation

Influence of family on personality

- Siblings share genes and environment
  - Factors that should make siblings similar
  - Are there also family-related factors that make siblings different?

http://www.outofservice.com/bigfive/
Sibling contrast effects
(Schachter et al., 1978)

• Participants: 45 3-child families
  – Mean age of kids = 6.4 years (SD 3.7)
• Each mom was asked to characterize her kids, pair-wise, as same or opposite
  – 1st- vs 2nd-born (first pair)
  – 2nd- vs 3rd-born (second pair)
  – 1st- vs 3rd-born (jump pair)

Rivalry reduction hypothesis

• The more similar siblings are, the more they compete for resources
  – So parents try to amplify differences
• One mechanism that could amplify differences:
  – Gene-environment correlation

A gene-environment correlation

• Alice and Alicia are twins
• As children:
  – Alice slightly prefers books,
  Alicia slightly prefers sports
  – A random individual difference
• Environmental factors will probably correlate with their interests
  – E.g., Alice gets books, Alicia gets sports lessons
  – Amplifying the initial differences

Birth order
(Sulloway, 1996)

• Historical study of scientists/intellectuals
  – Identified 100s on record with opinions on heliocentrism, evolution, other big new ideas
  – From the last 500 years of Western thought
• Later-borns were about 5 times as likely to support new ideas as first-borns
  – 5.4 to 1 for heliocentrism (Copernicus)
  – 4.6 to 1 for evolution (Darwin)

Exam

• Will cover Chapters 7-10, 12, and 14
• Format:
  – 30 multiple choice (1 point each)
  – 8 short answer (points vary)
• Will not cover reasoning with probabilities
  – From the Decision-making class
Short-answer questions

- Know the homeostatic model of drug tolerance
  - Sources: class, Figure 7.15 and related text
- Bransford & Johnson (1972), from class
  - Know how the conditions differed, and the pattern of results
- Draw and label the stage theory of memory

Short-answer questions

- Label the boxes in the taxonomy of long-term memory
  - E.g., “Explicit,” “Episodic,” “Procedural”
  - And give an example of each box along the bottom
  - Sources: class, Figure 8.20 and related text
- Identify use of anchoring-and-adjustment heuristic and loss aversion bias in a scenario
  - I’ll give you the scenario

Short-answer questions

- Label language areas of the brain, know the “leopard-lion” example
- Write a garden path sentence that has the same structure as *While Anna bathed the baby* ...
  - I’ll give you a topic
- Know what happened in the shape game vs. color game example