

PSY1111 Exam Prep Notes

Chapter 1

- What is a Science?
 - Mix of rationalism and empiricism.
 - **Rationalism** = philosophical belief that knowledge can be attained only by engaging in some type of systematic mental activity; logical and coherent theories.
 - **Active mind** = transforms, interprets, understands or values physical experience.
 - **Empiricism** = the belief that the basis of all knowledge is experience; observation of nature/sensory experience; testing theories,
 - **Passive mind** = simply reflects cognitively one's experiences with the physical world.
 - **Scientific theory** = Confirmable propositions
 - Remember **FiLCHeRS**:
 - Falsifiable, Logic, Comprehensiveness, Honesty, Replicability, and Sufficiency.
 - Seeks to discover lawful relationships
 - Causal and correlational.
 - Assumption of **determinism**.
 - Everything that occurs does so because of known or knowable causes – if known in advance, an event can be predicted with certainty and prevented by preventing its causes (control of event).
- **Karl Popper**
 - Hypothetical-deduction theory:
 - Scientific activity starts with a problem, then produces possible solutions, and then attempts to find fault with the solutions.
 - Problems, theories, and criticism.
 - Principle of falsifiability, risky predictions.
- **Thomas Kuhn** –science is a highly subjective enterprise.