PSYC1001 Revision Notes

History of Psychology

- Psychology: study of mental process, brain and behavior, and the relations between them
    o Mind: individual sensations, perceptions, memories, thoughts etc.
- Braitenberg vehicle: a thought experiment concept in which the motion of a vehicle is directly controlled by sensors, but the resulting behavior may seem complex and even intelligent → what is intelligence?
- Psychology: looking at intelligence
    o Experiments, observations, tests → ways to gain insight in the mental states
    o Twin studies, nature versus nurture → insight in the role of genes and environment
    o Neuro-imaging, electrophysiological measurements → ways to look at a brain in action
    o Why psychology: allows us to describe behavior, understand and explain behavior, predict future behavior, control and influence behavior
- Approaches to psychology
    o Social: cultural, interpersonal
    o Individual: individual differences, perception and cognition, behavior
    o Biochemical: behavior, brain systems, neurochemical
- Why study history of psychology
    o History can be biased: eg. accounts of WWII differ on the east and west sides of the Berlin Wall
    o Why did a field develop in a certain direction?
    o 'Zeitgeist' (the spirit of the times): what ideas are suited to the current times

- Wilhelm Wundt establishes 1st psychological laboratory in Leipzig in 1870: considered start of <u>scientific</u> psychology, but not the start of all psychology, psychology starts even earlier
- Trepanning: as far back as 6500 BC
    o Skulls with holes found in Inca, Peru, they were hypothesized to have survived the operation
    o Hippocrates' work On Wounds in the Head recommends and describes methods of trepanation
    o Use: to fix something wrong with their behavior → is the soul in the brain?
    o Still practiced in modern times, eg. Gusii-man
- Ancient Egypt: soul was thought to be in the heart, not the brain, all organs were removed during mummification except the heart, and the brain was discarded, not even stored