IB Psychology: Biological Approach Vocab Support

**Topic: Neurotransmitters and behaviour (text 64-71)**

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| **Term** | **Definition** | **Other links**  |
| Neuron Neural transmission | Nerve cell (we have billions of them in our brains)Occurs when a neuron ‘fires’/is activated by another neuron– ‘all or none’. Neurons don’t fire a bit – they fire or they don’t.  | Critical for understanding why neuroplasticity occurs; equipotential; distributed function  |
| Cell body/soma  |  |  |
| Dendrites  |  |  |
| Axon |  |  |
| Node of Ranvier | Small gaps along axon; this is where the message (action potential) moves along  |  |
| Myelin sheath  |  |  |
| Schwann cell  | Form myelin around the axon |  |
| **Term** | **Definition** | **Other links**  |
| Axon terminal  |  |  |
| Terminal buds/buttons  |  |  |
| Neurotransmitter |  |  |
| Synaptic vesicleSynaptic gap/cleft |  |  |
| Resting potential  | The potential a neuron has to fire, but the neuron is at rest. Think of a battery sitting in the pack. It has potential to charge something, but hasn’t done so yet.  |  |
| Action potential  | Potential produced for a neuron to fire; when a neuron is stimulated to reach the threshold for a neuron to fire. Think of this as the charge that the neuron fires along the axon. |  |
| Reuptake  |  |  |

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| **Term** | **Definition** | **Other links**  |
| Receptor site  |  |  |
| Post synaptic membrane |  |  |
| Excitatory neurotransmitterInhibitory neurotransmitter |  |  |

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| **Term** | **Definition** | **Other links**  |
| Agonist  |  |  |
| Antagonist  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Connector neurons | Connect neurons to other neurons; coordinate activity of motor/sensory neurons  |  |
| Sensory neurons  | Cary info from sense organs to central nervous system (brain/spinal cord)  |  |
| Motor neurons | Carry info from CNS to muscles/glands |  |

**Types of neurotransmitters (just a brief line on what they do!)**

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| **Neurotransmitter**  | **Affects on mood/cognition/Behaviour** |
| Serotonin  |  |
| Acetylcholine  |  |
| Dopamine |  |
| GABA |  |
| Glutamate  |  |
| Endorphin |  |
| Norepinephrine  |  |