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 vesicle  Synaptic 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 neurotransmitter  Inhibitory 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 |  |