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Answers

Explaining schizophrenia: progress and problems

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This quiz relates to the **PSYCHOLOGY REVIEW** Vol. 30, No. 2 article on schizophrenia. If you keep both the article and your answers to the questions, you will have a useful revision guide for relevant exam questions.

Part 1

True or false

- 1 Around 70% of people diagnosed with schizophrenia recover fully with drug therapy.

False, only around 30% of patients recover fully with drug therapy, while 20–30% do not improve at all.

- 2 Antagonist drugs such as chlorpromazine and haloperidol reduce dopamine activity in key brain structures.

True, they block dopamine receptors without activating them; this means dopamine molecules cannot bind to the postsynaptic receptors thus reducing dopaminergic activity.

- 3 One problem with atypical or second-generation drug treatments such as clozapine is that they lead to extrapyramidal side effects.

False, extrapyramidal side effects are a problem relating to first generation, typical antipsychotics. Second-generation drugs such as clozapine reduced this problem.

- 4 Researchers are beginning to understand schizophrenia as a neurodevelopmental disorder beginning in early childhood or even before birth.

True, retrospective studies have shown that 'soft signs' may have been present in childhood for many diagnosed with schizophrenia, e.g. poor motor control, and/or deficits in sensory integration).

Part 2

Multiple choice

- 1 Which of the following is classed as a third-generation antipsychotic?
 - a) Chlorpromazine
 - b) Clozapine
 - c) Haloperidol
 - d) **Aripiprazole**

- 2 Research into which of the following neurotransmitters has inspired new antipsychotic drugs treatment?
 - a) Dopamine
 - b) Serotonin
 - c) **Glutamate**
 - d) Histamine

- 3 The article states that subtypes of schizophrenia were removed from DSM 5 because...
 - a) **They do not consistently predict treatment response or long-term outcomes**
 - b) Too few people were diagnosed with one of the subtypes
 - b) Doctors preferred not to label their patients using the subtypes
 - c) The subtypes are ethnocentric and only apply to people with schizophrenia from Western cultures.

Part 3

Know your terms

What does each of the following mean? Try to use each term in a sentence of your own that relates to schizophrenia.

Positive and negative symptoms: Positive symptoms are behaviours or experiences which are not present in people without schizophrenia, such as hallucination or delusions. Negative symptoms are behaviours or experiences which are present in people without schizophrenia but not present in those who are diagnosed with schizophrenia, e.g. speech poverty and avolition.

Heterogeneity: Diversity or variation within a group; in relation to schizophrenia it means that people diagnosed with this disorder are sometimes very different to one another in terms of the symptoms that they experience.

Neural correlates: Patterns of brain activity or brain structures that are associated with certain behaviours or experiences.

Gene expression: The way in which genetic information is used to create proteins in the body; it involves two processes; *transcription* (creation of a temporary portable copy of the information) and *translation* (using the portable copy (template) to assemble amino acids into chains to create specific proteins).

Diathesis-stress model: The idea that schizophrenia results from an interaction between vulnerability factors such as a genetic predisposition and environmental stressors such as childhood trauma, poverty or living in a city (urban area).

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