

PSYCHOLOGY · CHAPTER 3

The Bases of Human Behaviour

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS

A well-prepared student should comfortably score 7-8 out of 8 on this chapter. Below 4 usually means the diagrams (neuron, brain) and the gland/culture vocabulary were never actively practised — both are recoverable with a few days of sketching and quizzing.

TIME TO MASTER**7-9 hrs****HELPLINE****70330 05444****WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

In this chapter your child learns the BIOLOGICAL and CULTURAL machinery behind everything people do. On the biology side they study the neuron (the nerve cell that carries messages), the nervous system (the brain and spinal cord, plus the nerves that reach the rest of the body), the structure of the brain and what each part does, the 'fight-or-flight' versus 'calm-down' nerves, the glands and hormones (with the pituitary as the 'master gland'), and how genes (heredity) shape us. On the culture side they learn how we absorb our own culture (enculturation), become members of society (socialisation), and change when we meet a new culture (acculturation). The big idea is that behaviour comes from nature AND nurture working together, not one alone. It is a diagram-heavy, vocabulary-heavy chapter, usually worth 6 to 8 marks.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- Can you draw a neuron and tell me the direction a message travels in it?
- What is the difference between the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems?
- Name the four lobes of the brain and what each one does.
- Why is the pituitary called the 'master gland'?
- What is the difference between enculturation and acculturation?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Reverses the nerve impulse (says axon to dendrite within one neuron).
- Swaps the sympathetic ('emergency') and parasympathetic ('calm') systems.
- Mixes up the cerebrum (thinking) with the cerebellum (balance).
- Says the thyroid or the brain is the 'master gland' instead of the pituitary.
- Thinks behaviour is caused by genes OR environment, not both together.

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

If your child cannot label a neuron, name the divisions of the nervous system, and define the three culture terms (enculturation, socialisation, acculturation), they will lose easy diagram and definition marks. The fix is not silent re-reading — it is drawing the diagrams from memory and saying the definitions out loud until the answers are automatic.

+91 70330 05444 · [readyforboards.com](https://www.readyforboards.com) · Boards prep that builds confidence, not anxiety.