**Vocabulary**

Physical Components and Capacities of the Brain

1. Amygdala – almond shaped set of neurons located deep in the brain’s medial temporal lobe. Plays a key role in processing emotions, particularly fear and pleasure.
2. Hippocampus – seahorse shaped set of neurons located in the brain’s medial temporal lobes near the center of the brain. It is involved with creation of long-term and spatial memory but also involved with emotions.
3. Anterior Cingulate Cortex (ACC) – lies in the medial wall of each cerebral hemisphere, above and adjacent to the corpus callosum. It connects to both the emotional and cognitive systems of the brain.
4. Neuron – also known as nerve cells, highly specialized cells with the ability to be stimulated and to conduct impulses. They composed primarily of the nucleus (cell body), axons (passageways for transmissions), and dendrites (receptors for impulses from other neurons.
5. Corpus Callosum – bundle of fibers that connects the left and right brain hemispheres.
6. Glial Cells – non-neuron brain cells, previously thought to be supportive of neurons but now understood to have more active roles.
7. Gray matter – portion of the brain composed on the nuclei of neurons.
8. White matter – portion of the brain composed of the connective components of the brain, particularly the axons.
9. Brain Waves – electrical activity in the brain consisting of Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Theta waves which differ in amplitude and frequency
10. Neurotransmitters – chemical substances that transmit nerve impulses across synapses.

Psychosocial Behaviors

1. Heuristic – an approach to problem solving, learning, or discovery that employs a practical method not guaranteed to be optimal or perfect, but sufficient for the immediate goals.
2. Intuitive Heuristic – Concept developed by Kahneman and Tversky applying heuristics to human thinking. It is a heuristic we apply intuitively without conscious thought. It is the tendency to, “when faced with a difficult question, to answer an easier one instead, often without noticing the substitution”.