Psychopathy Reading Questions

Name: __________________________________________________

Page 1

1. Where does the essence of psychopathy lie?

2. What is the estimated range of conduct disorder in boys?

3. What percent of inmates reach the criteria for Antisocial Personality Disorder?

4. What does Factor 1 of the Revised Psychopathy Checklist correspond to?

5. What are 5 items that “load” under Factor 1 of the Revised Psychopathy Checklist?

6. What does Factor 2 of the Revised Psychopathy Checklist correspond to?

7. What are 6 items that “load” under Factor 2 of the Revised Psychopathy Checklist?

8. Finish this statement: “Essentially, the psychopathic individual is someone with...”

9. In one study, ____% of psychopathic offenders and ____% of non-psychopathic offenders violated terms of release and were sent back to jail within three years. In another study, ____% of psychopathic offenders and ____% of non-psychopathic offenders violated terms of release.

Page 2

10. In a recent meta-analysis, Hemphill et al. determined that within a year of release, psychopathic offenders were ____ times more likely to recidivate, and ____ times more likely to recidivate violently.

1. The Display of the full disorder appears to involve a complex interaction between _________________________ and ______________ predispositions.

2. What is it that creates the conditions necessary for the development of psychopathy?

3. Psychopathy may be linked to problems within a family. What are two outcomes (ways of dealing with others) that can result?

4. List three emotional difficulties associated with psychopathy.

5. There are many more individuals with psychopathy per head of the population in North America than there are in Scotland or in Europe as a whole. What are two explanations for this difference posed by the authors?

6. How does emotional processing in psychopathic individuals differ from that shown by those without the disorder?

7. What emotional systems are dysfunctional in psychopathic individuals?

8. According to the lack of fear theory, what do individuals learn to avoid?
Page 3

1. Describe how the startle reflex can be potentiated or primed.

2. What is the significance of the psychopathic individual’s difficulties in processing fearful stimuli?

3. Why does the author say that say or fearful expressions display a submissive posture in humans?

4. Why might the above information make a psychopathic individual more difficult to socialize?

5. What is the “moral/conventional” distinction?

Page 4

1. What are the problems with both the fear and empathy positions?

2. What are the two candidate structures that have been implicated in the development of psychopathy?

3. Where is the orbitofrontal cortex, and what evidence suggests it may influence psychopathy?

4. There are clear behavioral differences between people who have suffered damage to the orbitofrontal cortex and individuals with psychopathy. What are 2 differences?

Page 5

1. What is the amygdala, and what does it do?

2. Humans and animals that have a damaged amygdala do not show what?