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| **Keyword** | **Definition** |
| **Alzheimer’s disease** | A form of senile dementia caused by irreversible degradation of the brain |
| **Axon** | A long, thin extension of the cytoplasm of a neuron. The axon carries electrical impulses very quickly |
| **Behaviour** | Everything an organism does; its response to all the stimuli around it |
| **Central nervous system (CNS)** | In mammals the CNS is made up of the brain and spinal cord |
| **Cerebral cortex** | The highly folded outer region of the brain, concerned with conscious behaviour |
| **Conditioned reflex** | A reflex where the response is associated with a secondary stimulus, for example, a dog salivates when it hears a bell because it has associated a bell with food |
| **Conditioning** | Reinforcement of behaviour associated with conditioned reflexes |
| **Conscious** | To have awareness of surroundings and sensations |
| **Consciousness** | The part of the human brain concerned with thought and decision making |
| **Ecstasy** | A recreational drug that increase the concentration of serotonin in the brain, giving pleasurable feelings. Long term effects include destruction of synapses |
| **Effector** | The part of a control system that brings about a change to the system (egg muscles shivering to warm you up) |
| **Fatty sheath** | Fat wrapped around the outside of an axon to insulate neurons from each other |
| **Feral** | Untamed, wild |
| **Glands** | Parts of the body that make enzymes, hormones, and other secretions in the body, for example sweat glands |
| **Hormone** | A chemical messenger secreted by specialised cells in animals and plants. They cause changes in different parts of the animal or plant |
| **Involuntary** | An automatic response made by the body without you thinking about it |
| **Learn** | To gain new knowledge or skills |
| **Long-term memory** | The part of the memory that stores information for a long period, or permanently |
| **Memory** | The storage and retrieval of information by the brain |
| **Models of memory** | Explanations for how memory is structured in the brain |
| **Motor neuron** | A neuron that carries nerve impulses for the brain or spinal cord to the effector |
| **Multi-store model** | One explanation of the how the human memory works |
| **Muscles** | Muscles move parts of the skeleton for movement. There is also muscle tissue in other parts of the body, for example, in the walls of arteries |
| **Nerve impulses** | Electrical signals carried by neurons (nerve cells) |
| **Nervous system** | Tissues and organs that control the body’s responses to stimuli. In a mammal it is made up of the central nervous system and the peripheral nervous system |
| **Neurons** | Nerve cell. There are different types of neurons in the body including the sensory, relay and motor |
| **Neuroscientist** | A scientist who studies how the brain and nerves function |
| **Newborn reflexes** | Reflexes to particular stimuli that usually occur only for a short time in newborn babies |
| **Pathways** | A series of connected neurones that allow nerve impulses to travel along a particular route very quickly |
| **Peripheral nervous system** | A network of nerves connecting the central nervous system to the rest of the body |
| **Pupil reflex** | The reaction of the muscles in the pupil to light. Contracts in bright light and relaxes in dim light |
| **Receptor** | The part of the control system in the body that detect changes in the system and passes this information to the processing centre (E.g. skin receptors detecting that you are cold and sending information to the brain to warm you up) |
| **Receptor molecules** | A protein (often embedded in the cell membrane) that exactly fits with a specific molecule, bringing about a reaction in the cell |
| **Reflex Arc** | A neuron pathway that brings about a reflex response. A reflex arc involves a sensory neurone, connecting neurons in the brain or spinal cord, and a motor neuron |
| **Relay neuron** | A neuron that carries the impulses from the sensory neuron to the motor neuron |
| **Repetition** | Act of repeating |
| **Repetition of information** | Saying or writing the same thing several times |
| **Response** | Action or behaviour that is caused by a stimulus |
| **Retina** | Light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye. The retina detects light by converting light into nerve impulses |
| **Retrieval of information** | Collecting information from a particular source |
| **Sensory neuron** | A neuron that carries nerve impulses from a receptor to the brain or spinal cord |
| **Serotonin** | A chemical released by one type of synapse in the brain. |
| **Short-term memory** | The part of the memory that stores information for a short period of time |
| **Simple reflex** | An automatic response made by the body to a stimulus |
| **Social behaviour** | Behaviour that takes place between members of the same species, including humans |
| **Stimulus** | A change in environment (e.g. temperature) that causes a response |
| **Synapses** | A tiny gap between neurons that transmits nerve impulses from one neuron to another by means of a chemical diffusing across the gap |
| **Transmitter substances** | Chemical that bridges the gap between two neurons |
| **Working memory** | The system of the brain responsible for holding and manipulating information needed to carry out tasks |