

## Part 1: Core

The study of the biological level of analysis, the cognitive level of analysis and the sociocultural level of analysis comprises the core of the psychology course.

The three levels of analysis focus on three fundamental influences on behaviour:

- biological
- cognitive
- sociocultural.

The interaction of these influences substantially determines behaviour.

The level of analysis approach reflects a modern trend in psychology towards integration and demonstrates how explanations offered by each of the three levels of analysis (biological, cognitive and sociocultural) complement one another and together provide more complete and satisfactory explanations of behaviour.

The three levels of analysis can be usefully compared to three microscope lenses of different magnification. Each lens reveals a different picture of the intricate structure that exists at a variety of levels, but no single picture explains the whole object; a synthesis is necessary. Synthesis of the rich and diverse content of modern psychology is the chief aim of IB psychology.

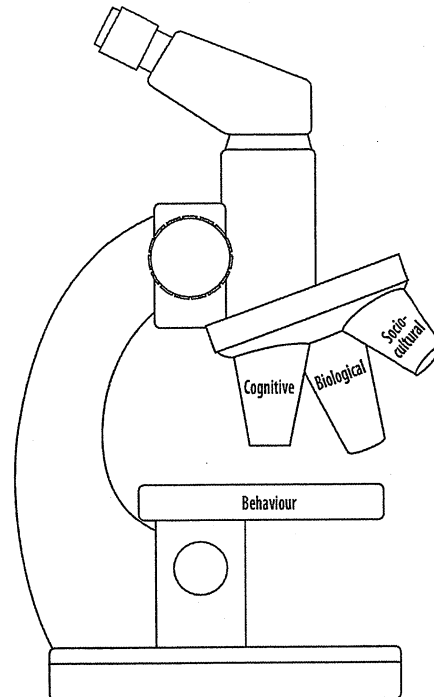


Figure 1

*Microscope lenses analogy for the three levels of analysis*