

Personality



Hans Jürgen Eysenck
(1916 – 1997)

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INTROVERTION-EXTROVERTION

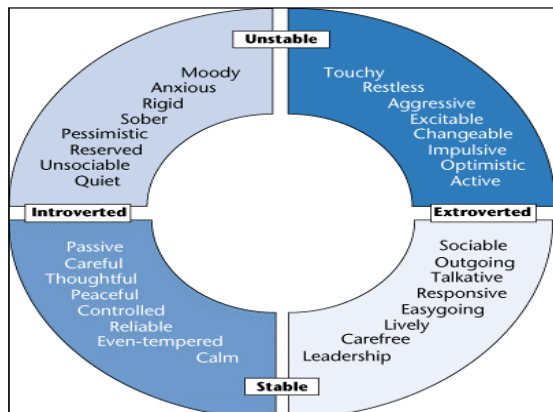
- As a lay definition, Introverts tend to prefer their own company and are reserved with others. It takes a lot for them to open up.
- Extroverts enjoy being in the midst of the action and are very people-orientated. They can become easily bored and tend to enjoy change.

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STABLE – NEUROTIC

- Those dominant in the 'Stable' dimension are laid-back, easy-going and not easily phased.
- Those dominant at the 'Neurotic' end are easily made anxious and prone to worrying.
- S-N is determined by the activity of the ANS.
- By NEUROTIC Eysenck didn't mean clinical neurosis.

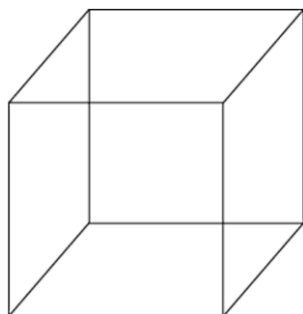
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• INTROVERSION – EXTROVERSION

- This is determined by the Reticular Activating System (RAS) and a 'rough' guide to how this works can be demonstrated through the Necker cube exercise. This is a Necker cube:

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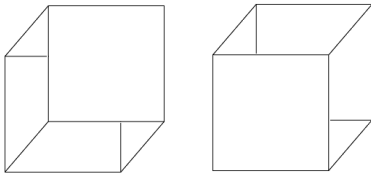


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The Necker Cube Experiment

- Your brain can make the Necker Cube flip between these two different views:

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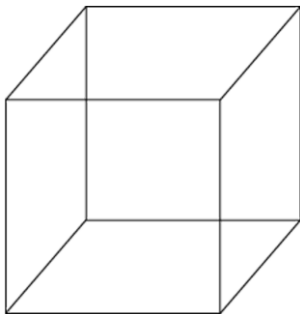


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The Necker Cube Experiment

- Let your eyes 'settle' on the cube and every time it changes its orientation – i.e. the back becomes the front or the front the back – record the change.
- On your marks!

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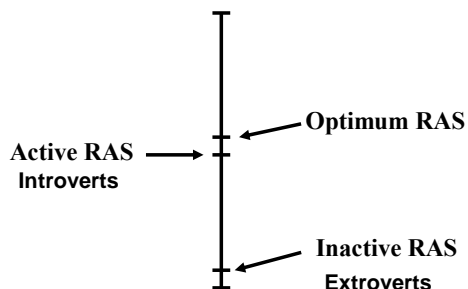


Working out your results

- Low scores suggest an Introvert tendency and high scores an Extrovert tendency.
- Before looking at your Necker cube results we need to understand the role of a critical brain region – the Reticular Activating system (RAS)

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The Reticular Activating System



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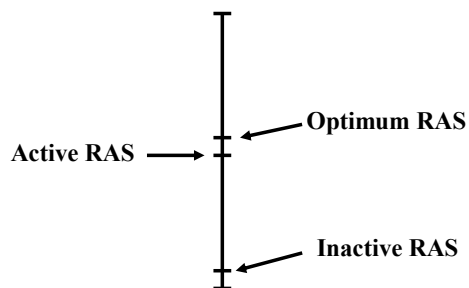
Evidence in relation to Eysenck

- Speilman's (1963) repetitive tasks study.
- Shield's Twin study and concordance rate.
- Eysenck's Eye blink and buzzer test:

UCS → UCR
 NS + UCS → UCR
 CS → CR

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Green's (1975) study of hyperactive children.



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- Wilson's (1976) study of the affect of alcohol on memory.
- Kagan's (1984) study of childhood personality.

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Evaluation

Heim (1975) has reviewed Eysenck's personality theory extensively:

1. She challenges his biological explanation.
2. Accuses his explanation of being reductionist.
3. Ecological validity.
4. Plays down the role of social influences.

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5. Reductionism - Eysenck claims the RAS can ultimately account for a range of complex personality behaviours and yet is located in a brain region that relates to our most primitive behaviours.

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