**Unit 4 Study Guide: Biological Perspective**

**Brain and Nervous System**

1. What are the primary parts of a typical neurons, and what functions do those parts perform?
2. What roles doe the action potential, refractory period, and resting potential play in generating a neural impulse?
3. What role do neurotransmitters play in neural communication?
4. What are the steps of the neural chain?
5. What are the divisions of the nervous system, and what is the function of each of these subsystems?
6. How does the way the endocrine system communicates differ from the way the nervous system communicates?
7. What are the parts of the brainstem, and what are their major functions?
8. What is the function of the thalamus?
9. What is the function of the cerebellum?
10. What are the major regions of the cerebral cortex?
11. What are the left hemisphere’s two specialized language areas, and how do they differ? What special functions does the right hemisphere handle?

**Sensation**

1. What are absolute thresholds and difference thresholds and how do they differ?
2. How does sensory adaptation make your life easier?
3. How does selective attention relate to effective study skills?
4. What is light?
5. What are the major parts of the visual system, and what roles do these parts play in our ability to see?
6. What are the two theories of color vision?
7. What are the four basic tastes? Which tastes are we naturally attracted to, and why do we naturally avoid others?
8. How do taste and flavor differ?
9. What are the four basic skin senses? According to gate-control theory, how can we effectively reduce pain?
10. What are the two body senses, and how do they differ?

**Perception**

1. What important contribution did the Gestalt psychologists make to the study of human perception?
2. Describe the principles of similarity, proximity, closure, and continuity.
3. What is depth perception, and how does it affect our lives?
4. What are the two major binocular depth cues, and how do they help us perceive depth?
5. What cues let us calculate depth using only one eye, and how do they let us calculate depth?