

Psychology

Welcome to Psychology: The study of the Mind and Behaviour.

As this is a new subject for everyone there is no prior knowledge needed.

There are different approaches that can be used to explain behaviour

- **Biological** – biological factors
- **Cognitive** – thought processes underlying the process
- **Behavioural** – learning experiences are critical in behaviour
- **Psychodynamic** – early experience and unconscious processes are the key influences on behaviour
- **Humanistic** – emphasises the importance of subjective experience and believes that humans can make choices and are not determined by biological or external forces

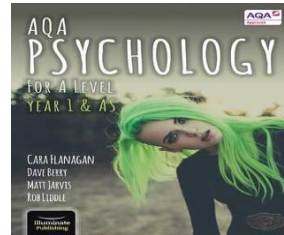


These different approaches can be applied to all areas of Psychology and they all have unique assumptions about how to explain both 'normal' and 'abnormal' behaviour.

TASK 1

Enter the web address into google on your phones/computers www.illuminate.digital/aqapsych1

- Save this to your 'bookmarks' so you can easily access it
- The username is SWHG
- Password is STUDENT



Use the information in the textbook or other internet searches, to complete the table:

Approach	Assumptions about behaviour (i.e. what causes/explains our behaviour)	Strengths of approach	Weakness of Approach	Examples of Behaviour it can explain
Biological				
Cognitive				
Behavioural				
Psychodynamic				
Humanistic				

TASK 2: APPLICATION - INTO THE MIND OF A SERIAL KILLER.....

One of the topics that we look at in psychology is aggression and what causes people to be aggressive? This is an example of how we apply our knowledge of approaches to different types of behavior. For example, are there biological reasons? Is it a learned behavior? Is it a result of displaced frustration? An area of interest for many psychologists has been looking at extreme violence and in particular, trying to understand the minds/behaviours of serial killers.



Watch the documentary on Charles Whitman: America's first serial killer. Using your knowledge of approaches, make a list of all the possible factors (approaches) that could explain his behavior. Which approach do you think is the best explanation for his behavior and why?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i58IK3tD4ec>
SNIPER '66: The Charles Whitman Murders in the Texas Tower

TASK 3 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Your task is to research a serial killer

Unfortunately there are many examples of serial killers. Your job is to pick one and research them. Who are they? Write a biography of their childhood. What factors led them to kill? Which approach best explains their behavior? This could be put together as a brief powerpoint or maybe a one page summary.



TASK 4

Are we born good or evil?

One debate in psychology is the free will and determinism debate, which is the extent to which psychologists believe we have free will (i.e. we are in control of our behavior and the choices that we make) or the extent to which our behavior is determined (determinism refers to the fact that our behavior is the result of internal (biological) or external factors (e.g. upbringing) over which we have no control) and therefore cannot be held responsible for our behavior.

Watch the following clips taken from a BBC documentary: Horizon – Are we born good or evil?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAbUmF4Pujc>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2bPMDTXQTY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W72vC48kWyo&list=PLBy3IHVYaQgUwzhDrK51TyT-DD5rsuDjH>

TASK 5 SUMMARY

Based on what you have just watched, can you apply this to your serial killer. Were they responsible for what they did?

FINAL THOUGHT.....

A final question to think about...if people are not responsible for their behavior e.g. they have a gene that makes them a serial killer, what do we do with these people?