

Psychology: Induction task

Although psychologists have probably existed since humans were decorating the walls of their caves, as an organised field of study it is relatively new. It wasn't until the second half of the nineteenth century that Wilhelm Wundt and a few others started to study human behaviour and the workings of the mind in a serious manner. Being a 'new kid on the block' psychology is still finding its feet. As such there is no one recognised way of explaining human behaviour, perhaps there never will be.

As psychologists we, and soon you, will be considering a range of theoretical ways in which psychologists past and present have attempted to explain the complexities of the human mind and of human behaviour. At A-level we look mostly at four so-called 'approaches' or 'perspectives.' This task will introduce you to two, hopefully interesting but, very different explanations.

Learning Objectives (what you are expected to learn)

- Explain how psychodynamic psychologists try to explain human behaviour
- Explain Freud's stages of psychosexual development and his components of personality
- Explain how Freud believed that Little Hans developed his fear of horses.
- Explain how behaviourists try to explain human behaviour
- Explain the processes of learning by classical and operant conditioning
- Explain how Watson taught Little Albert to be afraid of white rats.
- Explain Bandura's theory and key study using the Bobo doll

Resources Use the following websites: *Avoid using Wikipedia!*

- SimplyPsychology.org (click on 'Perspectives')
- Psychology4a.com (click on 'approaches'). An outstanding site packed with relevant information
- About.com.psychology and click on theories. You'll find Freud under 'personality theories.'
- Tutor2u.net

The Psychodynamic Approach

Find the answer to the following questions

Then summarise your findings in a poster or booklet:

Leave room for additions when we review this work

- Briefly explain Freud's three components of personality
- What are the five stages (with ages) of psychosexual development and what happens during each?
- Freud believed we had 'ego defence mechanisms' that protect the conscious mind. Explain what Freud meant by 'displacement' and then choose two other defence mechanisms and explain how they work.
- Freud was an interesting and complex character. Find five interesting facts about him or his life including his years of birth and death.
- What were Freud's key beliefs about factors affecting the development of personality?
- Once you're familiar with the ideas above, the case of Little Hans should now make more sense. Outline the case study of Little Hans and then identify how Freud explained Hans' development of his fear of horses. Use technical terms such as 'displacement,' 'Oedipus Complex' and perhaps even 'widdler' 😊

Little Hans Often Played
"Horses" With His Dad



The Behaviourist Approach

Find the answer to the following questions

Then summarise your findings in a poster or

booklet: Leave room for additions when we review this work

- What is classical conditioning?
- Explain/draw how Pavlov taught his dogs to salivate to the sound of a bell. Use terminology such as 'conditioned' and 'unconditioned' 'stimulus' and 'response.'
- Explain how Watson taught little Albert to be afraid of white rats. Consider how this is similar to Pavlov's work on dogs. What is operant conditioning? Can you think of any real life applications of this type of learning, e.g. with animals?
- Find out five interesting facts about the lives of Ivan Pavlov and John Watson



The Social Learning Theory (SLT)

Find the answer to the following questions then summarise your findings in a poster or booklet: Leave room for additions when we review this work

- Make clear notes on the Bobo Doll study and its findings (Search 'Bandura and the Bobo Doll' on YouTube).
- Suggest what impact this study had on society.