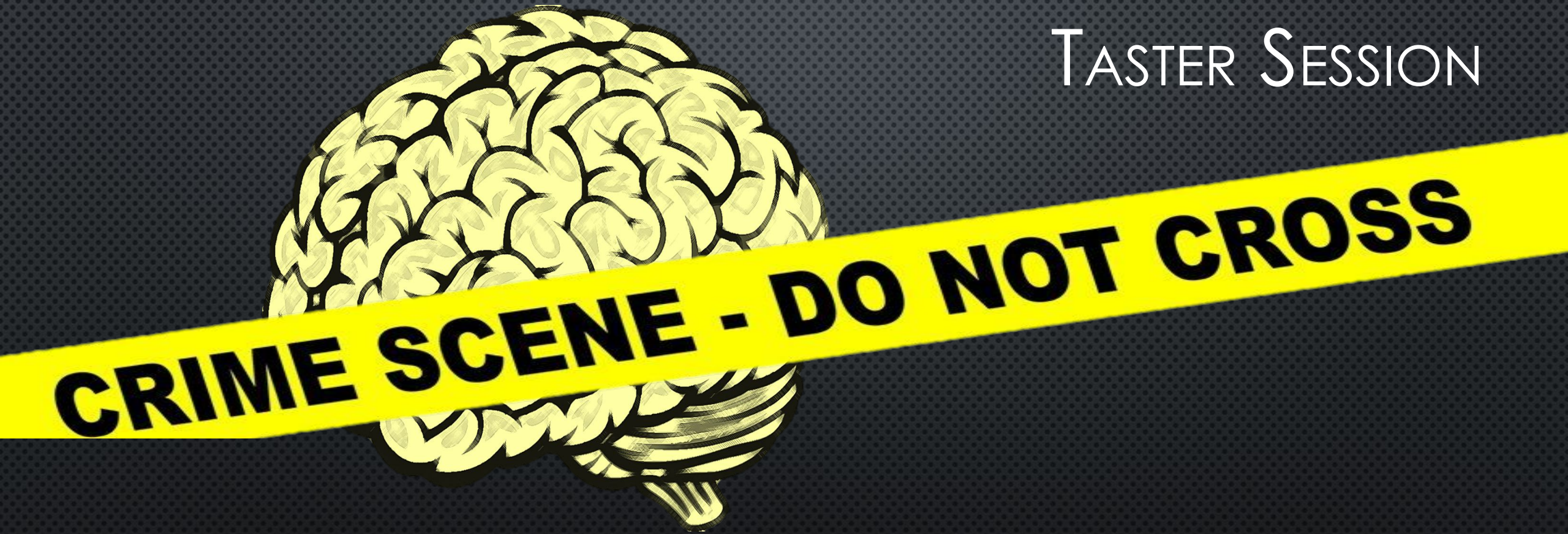


Welcome to A level Psychology!

TASTER SESSION



Today's objectives....

To understand the content of the
Psychology A Level course,
and to participate in a sample lesson to get
a feel for the subject.

Sample lesson topic: Forensic

Understand (AO1)	To describe possible psychological explanations for criminal behaviour.
Apply (AO2)	To explain criminal behaviour using the key psychological approaches.
Evaluate (AO3)	To consider the strengths and weaknesses of psychological explanations of criminal behaviour.

There has been three murders...

As budding Psychologists, the police have enlisted your help to uncover the mind of the murderer.

You are the only ones allowed to venture beyond the crime tape.

Visit each crime scene in turn and consider the evidence.

Using the information, create an offender profile of the potential murderer – in other words a list of characteristics that they might possess!

Write these on your notes sheet and be prepared to explain your decisions!



CSI:
CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

STOP!!!!

New evidence has emerged....

Witness	Estimated Age
A	30
B	31
C	28
D	35
E	29
F	27
G	30
H	32
I	45
J	30

A number of eye witnesses have come forward, claiming that they saw a man acting suspiciously around one of the three locations.

Upon interview the police have asked them to estimate the man's age. The results are in the table.

To help with your profile, work out the mean age estimated.
How helpful is the calculated mean to your investigation?
What other average could you use to help you with his age?

31.7

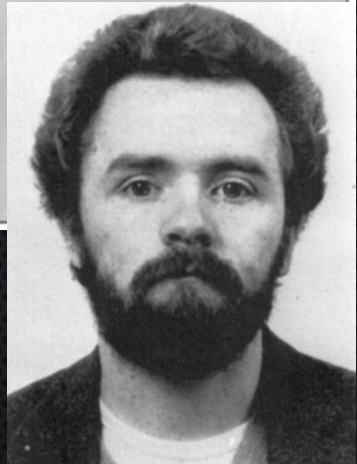
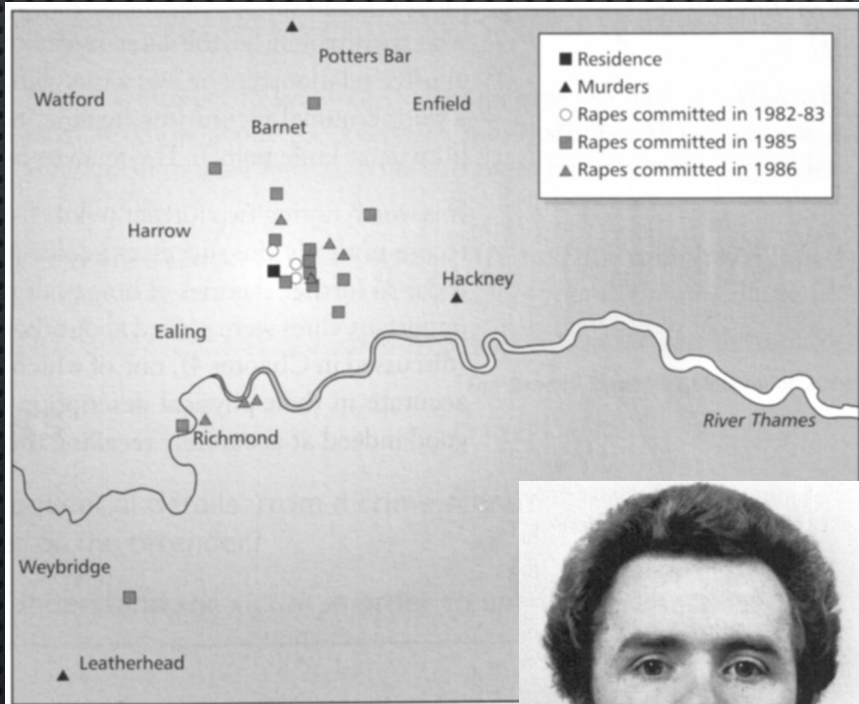
Time is up!

**The police need your
information.**

Be prepared to share your profile or list of
characteristics of the suspect....

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Congratulations, your psychology skills have helped the police to make an arrest!



John Duffy 'the railway killer'-facts

- ❑ 26 attacks between 1982-1986.
- ❑ 3 murders between 1985-1986.
- ❑ All the offences were committed against young women.
- ❑ All the offences were committed in and around London, near railway stations.



Duffy's Psychological Profile

A Psychologist David Canter created a profile using the same evidence which enabled the police to catch Duffy!

Read his profile and compare it to yours. How similar was it? What can we conclude then about this method of catching a killer?

[Profile](#)

But why?

Why did John Duffy commit such terrible acts?

What factors make a murderer?

Think ~ Pair ~ Share

The many brains of John Duffy...

There four main approaches in Psychology.

Use the information to sort out the possible explanations for Duffy's criminality into the four approaches.

Place the card next to the title which represents it's matching approach.

Challenge: **Evaluate**

When you think you have placed the cards correctly, try to come up with some pros and cons of each explanation. What is good and bad about the way each explains Duffy's behaviour?

Biological Explanations

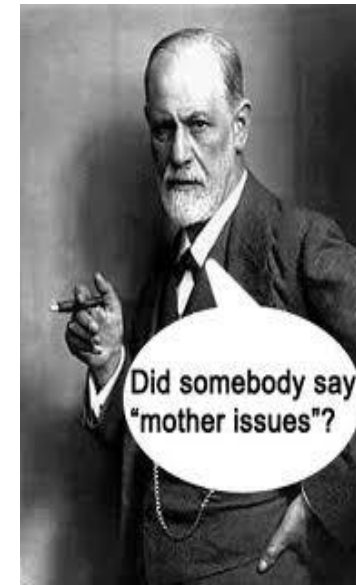
Cognitive Explanations

**Psychodynamic
Explanations**

Behavioural Explanations

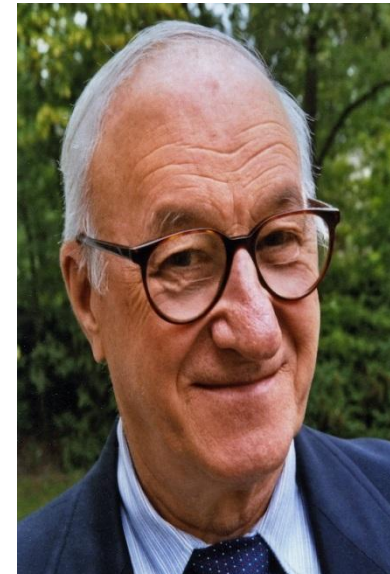
Psychodynamic Approach

- Sigmund Freud
- I am a **Psychoanalyst** and I believe that:
 - Early childhood experiences can influence later adult behaviour.
 - Our behaviours, thoughts and feelings are affected by unconscious wishes/desires.
 - The libido – sex drive is the most powerful.
 - I treat people using hypnosis, dream analysis and projective tests to try to uncover their unconscious desires.



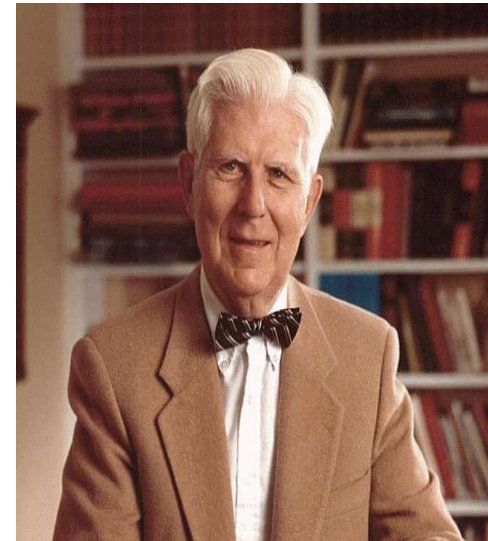
Behavioural Psychologists

- Albert Bandura
- I am a **Behavioural Psychologist** and I believe that:
 - All behaviour is learnt from the environment and we learn new behaviours, such as eating disorders.
 - We learn from watching other people (role models) as well as things like TV & video games.
 - I treat people using systematic desensitisation – that is I try to make them ‘unlearn’ their negative behaviours.



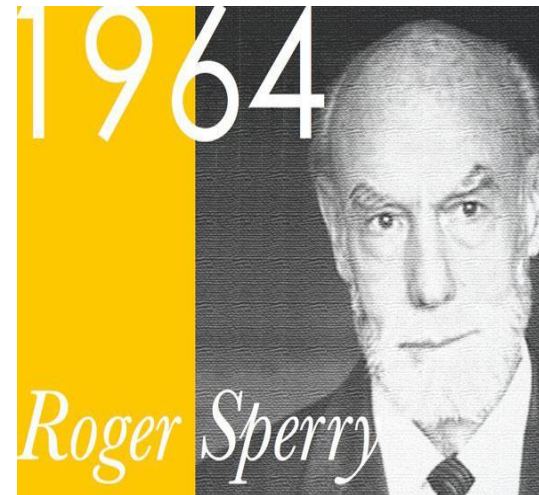
Cognitive Psychologists

- Aaron Beck
- I am a **Cognitive Psychologist** and I believe that:
 - Our thoughts and beliefs shape our behaviour, i.e. I am overweight could lead to anorexia.
 - Irrational/faulty thinking (thoughts based on no evidence) can also lead to psychological issues.
- I treat people using cognitive behavioural therapy – by trying to make people realise that their thoughts are irrational.



Biological Psychologists

- Roger Sperry
- I am a **Biological Psychologist** and I believe that:
 - Different biological and physiological systems influence our thoughts, feelings and behaviour, including:
 - Genes
 - Biochemistry (Hormones/Neurotransmitters)
 - Brain Damage
 - I conducted split-brain studies, where I cut brains in half to cure epilepsy – however, I what I discovered was far more interesting...



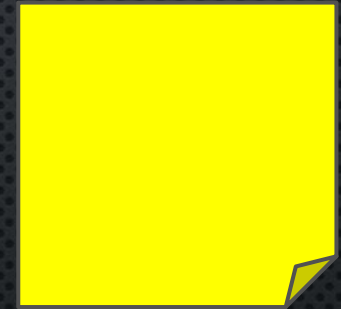
Biological	Psychodynamic
<p>John Duffy's family had a violent streak, including his uncle, who was arrested for assault. Could this mean that violent crime runs in the family? Has it been inherited?</p>	<p>After the trauma of being bullied as a child, Duffy's anger built up. He unconsciously projected this anger onto his victims.</p>
<p>Tests conducted on Duffy after he was caught, revealed he had an excess of testosterone, making him naturally more masculine and aggressive.</p>	<p>As Duffy became an adult, it became apparent that he was infertile. He saw himself as inadequate and unconsciously transferred the same feelings of inadequacy onto his victims.</p>
<p>Duffy has a small lesion (damaged area) close to his amygdala, an area in the limbic system of the brain responsible for emotions such as aggression.</p>	<p>Duffy had intense unconscious sexual desires which would manifest themselves into sexual fantasies.</p>

Behavioural	Cognitive
Both Duffy and his accomplice were victims of physical bullying as children. As such they copied the negative behaviours displayed by the bullies and learned how to be similarly be negative towards others.	Duffy regularly experienced negative and exaggerated thoughts about himself. He saw himself as extremely inadequate and this lead to feelings of depression.
Duffy was a martial arts fanatic and this is where he picked up his violent actions and moves. He learned how to fight from both lessons and watching martial artists in the media.	Duffy thought he had no control over his life. To gain back control, Duffy believed dominating his victims was the way forward. He wanted to gain back the control he thought he had lost.
The police seized a number of violent books from Duffy's home. All of which included information on how to commit murder. It seems Duffy's crimes were shaped by what he read.	Duffy and his accomplice would enjoy torturing and tormenting animals such as hedgehogs. They truly believed that this was a normal act.

The Verdict

Based on our discussion today and the evidence you have seen, decide on which of the four approaches/explanations is the best one for Duffy's behaviour.

Note down the reason for your decision on post it note and place it next to the relevant approach.



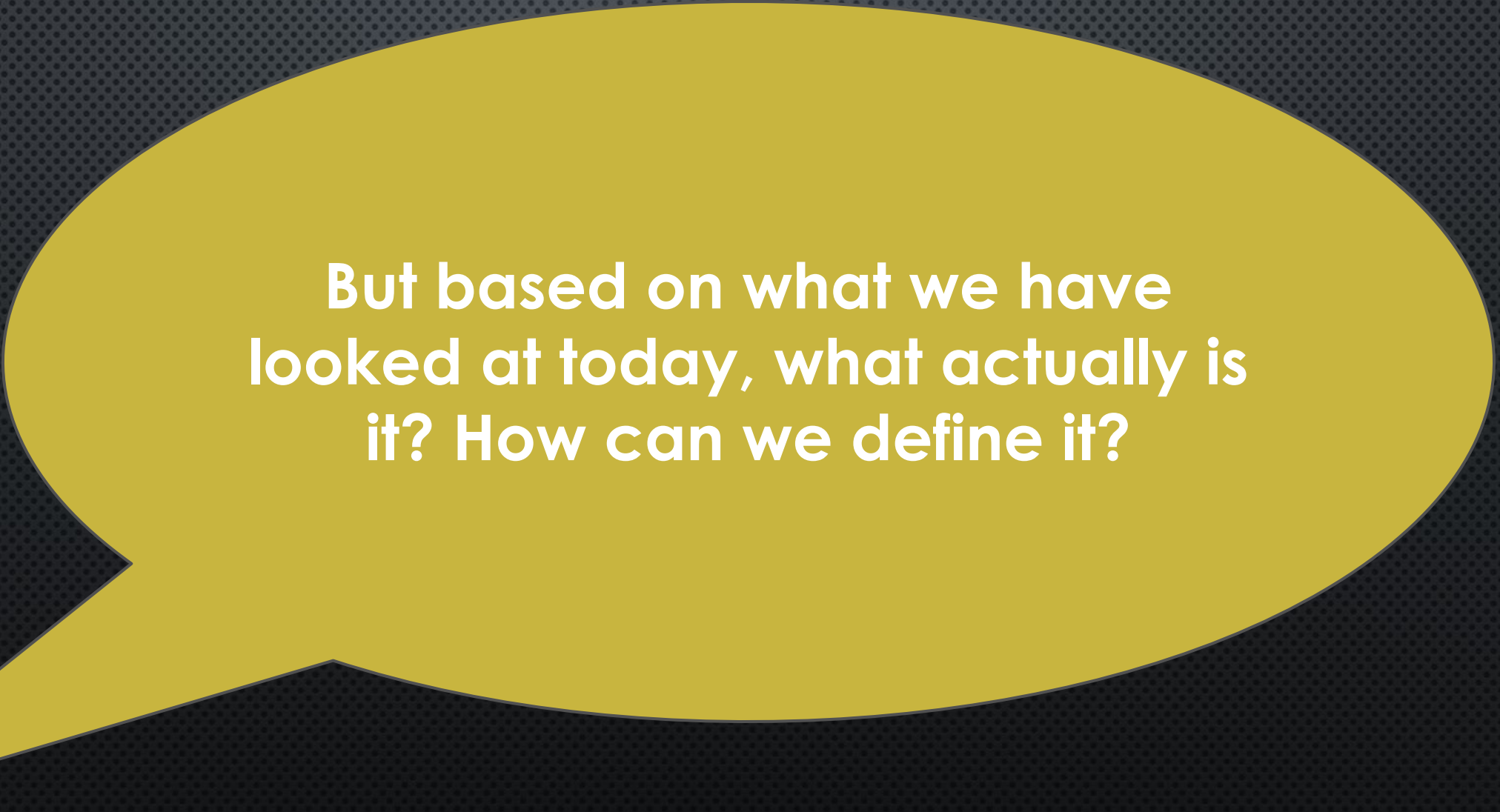
Biological Explanations

Cognitive Explanations

**Psychodynamic
Explanations**

Behavioural Explanations

And that's Psychology folks!



But based on what we have
looked at today, what actually is
it? How can we define it?

No Psychologists cannot read your mind!



It is the Science of the Mind and Behaviour!

And YES it is a Science!

That means you will also study experimental methods, data analysis, maths and biology!

What subjects does it go well with?

Good subjects to take along side it...

Sociology

Law

Politics

History

Maths

Biology



These all link quite nicely in terms of content and skills required!

Full A Level

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

What's assessed

Compulsory content 1–4 above

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Topics:
Social Influence
Memory
Attachment
Psychopathology

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

What's assessed

Compulsory content 5–7 above

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Topics:
Research Methods
Bio Psychology
Approaches

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

What's assessed

Compulsory content 8 above

Optional content, one from option 1, 9–11, one from option 2, 12–14, one from option 3, 15–17 above

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Compulsory topic:
Issues and debates
Three Option Topics: e.g.
Relationships
Stress
Addiction
Forensic Psychology

What makes a successful Psych student?

- 1) **Organised and determined:** Psychology isn't easy and you will have to get your head around lots of information.
- 2) **An interest in Science:** Psychology is a Science and you will need to get your head around some scientific concepts, as well as conduct your own scientific research and practical investigations.
- 3) **An interest in people:** In Psychology everything can be applied to humans and your own experiences.
- 4) **A love of discussion:** Discussion and debate is always important in Psychology. You must be prepared to contribute.
- 5) **Literacy and numeracy:** You will need to perform lots of statistics and be able to write logical, clear and well explained essays.

Most importantly... **be Independent!** You will be expected to conduct a lot of work and research on your own... so you must be motivated to work outside of the classroom!

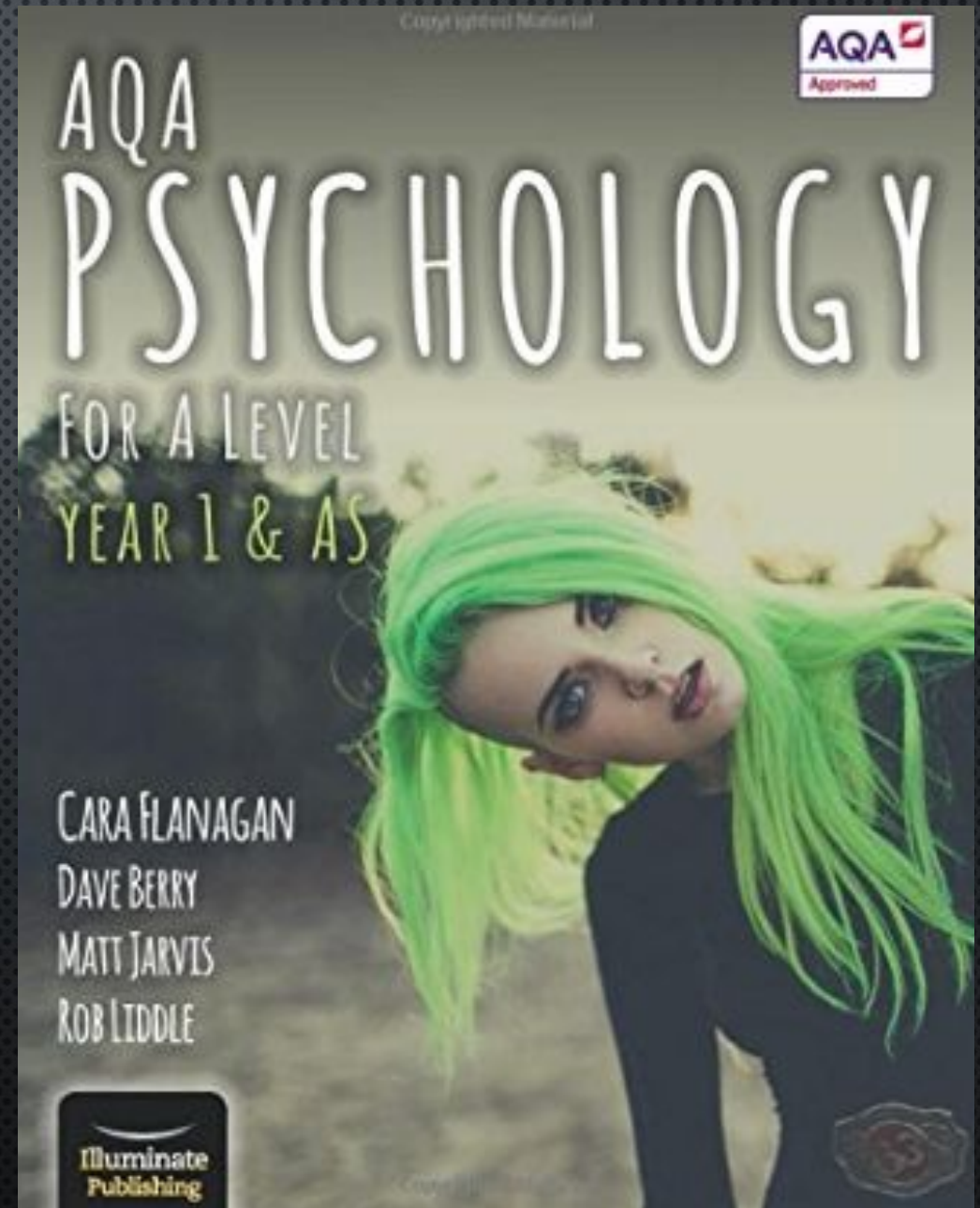
Still Interested?

Recommended Text

**AQA Psychology for A Level:
Year 1 & AS**

**Cara Flanagan
Illuminate publishing**

Approx £25



Career options

As Psychology promotes a wide range of skills including numeracy, literacy and science, it is valuable to most organisations and professions. Some of the key ones are seen below.

Teaching

Child Care

Chartered Psychologist (Sports, Clinical, Forensic, Health, Educational, Child)

Speech and Language Therapist

Medicine

Nursing and Mental Health Nursing

Counselling

Lawyer

Police officer / detective / offender profiler

Social Worker

Management

Human Resources

Sports Coach

Health and Social Care



Questions?

A close-up photograph of a piece of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The word "Questions?" is written in a large, bold, black cursive script. A black pen is visible in the lower right corner, with its tip pointing towards the text. A thick black horizontal bar is positioned below the handwritten text.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Comments

I would appreciate your comments on today's taster session or any thoughts you have about Psychology.

E.g. why you are interested in it.

Write these on a post it note!