

Individualistic Theories – Psychodynamic Theory

LO1 – DESCRIBE INDIVIDUALISTIC THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC1.1 You should be able to - Describe Individualistic Theories of Criminality	Individualistic Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Theories • Psychodynamic Theory • Psychological Theories 	You should have knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bandura's Social Learning Theory ✓ Sutherlands Differential Association Theory ✓ Freud's Psychodynamic Theory ✓ Bowlby's Maternal Deprivation Theory ✓ Eysenck's Personality Theory

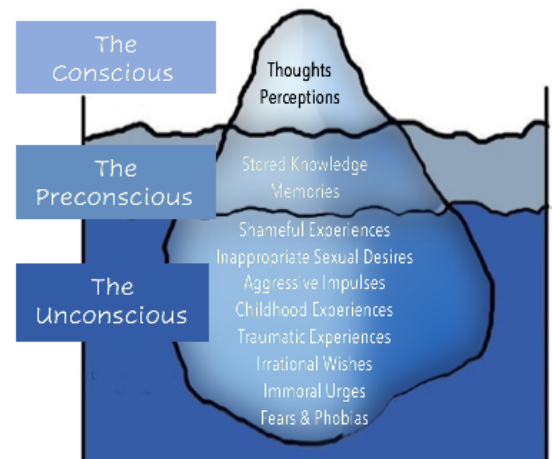
THE TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE OF PERSONALITY

As a compliment to his theory of mind Freud described three parts to human personality – the **id**, the **ego**, and the **superego**. The **id** is the first part of the personality to develop and contains all the basic drives and impulses that we need to survive. The **id** is essentially amoral and selfish and works entirely on the **pleasure principle**, i.e., immediate satisfaction of any wish. The **id** is also very extreme in its reactions; frustration often results in aggression or extreme protest. As the child grows it becomes clear that such behaviour is not acceptable. As a consequence, a more realistic and 'social' part of personality, the **ego** emerges. This works according to the **reality principle**, i.e., it tries to satisfy the **id**'s demands but in such a way that takes into account external reality. As the child develops further, a third part of the personality emerges which acts as a kind of 'internalised parent'. This is the **superego** and its role is to act as the **conscience** of the child – it works on the **ego ideal** which is a set of standards of moral behaviour morals which it demands the **ego** live up to.

Id Dominant	Person is dominated by basic biological needs and urges - food, drink, sex, aggression and so on. Personality will be perceived by others as crude and antisocial.
Ego Dominant	Person will follow rules but be inflexible. Ego dominant individuals will be obedient, but choices made are not based on what is right or wrong, simply is allowed by the rules.
Superego Dominant	Person will be very judgemental and will expect perfection from all – people including own self, will always fall short against this personality's high moral standards.

A HEALTHY PERSONALITY IS A BALANCED PERSONALITY

All of these components of personality have an impact criminality. A person who is **id** dominant will be antisocial, they may well be both physically and sexually aggressive. **Ego** dominant types might follow the rules but that doesn't mean their behaviour will be 'moral'. For example, a person with this type of personality might commit state crimes because they are not breaking any rules by taking part in them. An under-developed **superego** is also linked to crime. Sociopaths are people who have a very weakly developed conscience, sometimes they have no conscience at all. Perhaps more surprising is that an over-developed super ego can also be related to crime as the personality is so weighed down by guilt that they react against this and turn to crime this a coping mechanism



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND

Sigmund Freud was a doctor working with women who were experiencing a range of physical symptoms known as 'hysteria'. The cause of hysteria was a mystery, but Freud became convinced that the roots of such problems lay deep in a hidden part of the mind known as the **unconscious**. Freud developed a model of the human mind as being like an iceberg, with most of it hidden beneath the surface.

JOHN BOWLBY & THE MATERNAL DEPRIVATION HYPOTHESIS

John Bowlby was a psychologist who was heavily influenced by Freud. In the 1940's Bowlby outlined the **maternal deprivation hypothesis**; this was the idea that frequent or prolonged disruptions to the child's primary attachment relationships would have serious consequences for the later development of the child and on into adulthood.

- An inability to form attachments in the future
- Affectionless psychopathy (inability to feel remorse)
- Delinquency (behavioural problems in adolescence)
- Problems with Cognitive Development

Bowlby's thinking was shaped by various sources of evidence including his own research on emotionally and behaviourally disturbed children attending the Tavistock clinic in London.

THE 44 JUVENILE THIEVES STUDY, BOWLBY (1944)

John Bowlby (1944) supported his claims with his own investigation of 44 juvenile thieves. He found, through interviews with the thieves and their families, that 14 of the sample he studied showed personality and behavioural characteristics that could be classified as '**affectionless psychopathy**'. Of these 14, 12 had experienced prolonged separation from their mothers during infancy (in particular, the first two years of their lives). In a non-criminal group, only two had experienced similar early separation. Bowlby concluded that the effects of maternal deprivation had caused affectionless and delinquent behaviour among the juvenile thieves.