

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

The Challenge

You are a forensic psychologist working for the FBI and have been asked to give your professional opinion on the criminal investigation taking place. Your job is to provide a psychological explanation and identify possible causes which may have led to the offender committing the crime. You will represent **all** of the key approaches in psychology and will present your findings according each key approach listed below;

1. Psychodynamic Approach
2. Social Learning Theory
3. Behaviourist Approach
4. Biological Approach
5. Humanistic Approach
6. Cognitive Approach



Choose any famous criminal in the media and your task is to produce an offender profile which you will present to the rest of the group in the form of a presentation. Focus on researching one approach per week for this extended project.

Rules

1. You have to research offender profiling & collate information on your key approaches and their explanation of criminal behaviour. The research can be found in textbooks, journal articles and the internet.
2. You have to produce your offender profile. Use the profile template provided to guide you.
3. You will present your findings to the rest of the class.

Form

You must make sure your presentation covers the following;

- Choose at least one famous criminal.
- Focus on the **six** key approaches and offer an explanation and cause for the offender's behaviour according to each approach. You must clearly identify the strengths and limitations of each explanation.
- Draw a conclusion and justify why the key approach provides an adequate explanation for the offender's behaviour.

Content

All information must be accurate and relevant.

Process Criteria

Your presentation will be peer assessed with at least one comment/question from each of the groups observing.

The Profile

Develop an offender profile and consider the following points;

What sort of job does the offender have?

What are the consistencies in his/her behaviour?

What time of day does the offender commit their crimes?

Does he/she have any hobbies or regular out of work activities?

Does he/she live with someone or on their own?

Has he/she any skills/qualifications?

What about their family and how could this have affected their behaviour?

Does the offender have a preference for a specific victim?

What triggers the offender to commit their crimes?