

## Evaluation of Freud's Theory of the Psyche

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|    | <p>P: One strength of the psychodynamic theory of criminality is that there is research evidence to support.</p> <p>E: Bowlby studied 44 juvenile delinquents and compared them with non criminal juveniles, of the delinquents 39% had experienced complete separation from their moms for 6months or more during their 1st 5years.</p> <p>E: Therefore, this demonstrates criminality can be explained by early childhood separation from parents, which Freud suggested could lead to a weak superego which would be responsible for impulsive crimes such as theft.</p> |
|    | <p>P: A strength of Freud's theory is that it could be used to predict criminal behaviour based on familial relationships, leading to practical applications in society.</p> <p>E: For example, if we are aware that there was criminal behaviour in a household with many young children, interventions could be placed within the home to prevent that behaviour occurring in the child due to a undeveloped superego.</p> <p>E: This is a strength of Freud's theory overall as it has practical uses.</p>                                                               |
|  | <p>P: It has been shown that psychodynamic therapies to treat offending have not been very effective.</p> <p>E: This is because such therapies focus mainly on dream analysis, which is very subjective to the individual. Such treatments also disregard the importance of a biological component e.g. genes, as they are mainly utilising talking therapies such as psychoanalysis.</p> <p>E: This therefore threatens the usefulness of Freud's psychodynamic theory, as it lacks practical applications to prevent criminals from reoffending.</p>                      |
|  | <p>P: A weakness of Freud's theory is that it is highly unscientific and lacks objective evidence due to the difficulty of testing concepts such as the unconscious mind.</p> <p>E: It is a very subjective process where theorists may draw different conclusions based on participant responses.</p> <p>E: Therefore, psychodynamic theories of offending lack credibility in explaining the causes of criminal behaviour.</p>                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>EXTENSION</b><br/>Can you suggest a further point of evaluation?</p>          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |