

A2: Synoptic Toolkit (A02/A03)

Issues

Debates



Approaches

Name:

IDA: Issues, Debates and Approaches



What is IDA?

IDA stands for the various issues, debates and approaches in Psychology.

IDA is awarded in you Unit 3 exam (relationships, aggression and eating behaviour)

How many should I include in each answer?

- Aim to include at least 2 IDA points that are elaborated in order to achieve the 'effective' mark band
- Try to include at least one issue, one debate and one approach as well as supporting/contradictory research. This will show the examiner you have a detailed knowledge of Psychology.
- You need to intergrade them into your answer. Don't just wait until the end to mention them!

How do I write an effective IDA paragraph?

- You need to make sure the evaluation paragraph relates directly to the question and topic - its not just a generic evaluation paragraph.
- Use the P.E.E.L structure to help you.

Example: 'Outline and evaluate the biological explanation of aggression in humans' (24 marks)

Point: One issue with the biological approach is it biologically reductionist.

Evidence: For example; it reduces the complex behaviour of aggression in humans down to a single gene; such as the androgen testosterone.

Explain: However, this explanation ignores any other factors that could cause human aggression; for instance humans could have learned their behaviour through vicarious reinforcement (social learning theory) or aggression could have adapted to aid survival and reproduction (evolutionary explanation).

Link: This is weakness of the biological explanation because aggression is an extremely complex behaviour, the biological approach is not enough on it is own to explain all types of aggression.

IDA: Issues



- Methodology
- Animal Research
- Gender Bias
- Ethics
- Culture Bias

use the acronym M.A.G.E.C to help you remember the different issues!

It is important to include both strengths and weaknesses when evaluating



Methodology

Create a summary table of the various research methods, the strengths and weaknesses.

Lab experiments
Field experiments
Natural experiments
Observations
Interviews
Questionnaires
Content analysis
Case Studies
Correlation

Animal Research

For animal research	Against animal Research



Gender Bias

Gender Bias

Androcentric

Estrocentric

Alpha bias

Beta bias



Ethics



Informed Consent

Debrief

Confidentiality

Deception

Right to withdraw

Privacy

Cultural Bias

Cultural Bias

Ethnocentric

Emic Analyses

Etic Analyses

Imposed Etic

Beta Bias

Historical Bias



- Determinism Vs. Free Will
- Reductionist Vs. Holist
- Psychology as a Science
- Nature Vs. Nature

IDA:
Debates



Determinism Vs. Free Will



Determinism	Free Will
<p>Biological</p> <p>Environmental</p>	

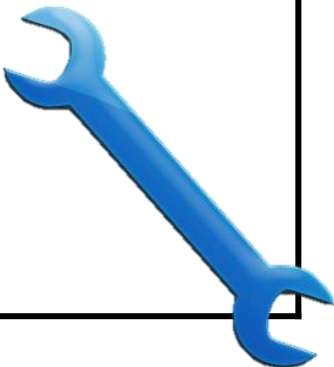


Reductionist Vs. Holistic

Reductionist	Holistic
<p>Physiological</p> <p>Evolutionary</p>	

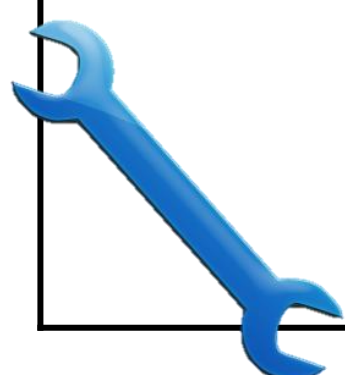
Nature Vs. Nurture

Nature	Nurture



Psychology as a Science

Psychology as a Science





IDA: Approaches

- Biological
- Cognitive
- Behavioural
- Psychodynamic
- Evolutionary

The topics that you will be studying at A2 will include each of the approaches. Therefore it is important to have good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

Also being able to compare an approach to another explanation will show the examiner that you have sound understanding of psychology.

Biological Approach

Main Assumptions

Methodology Used

Strengths

Weaknesses



Cognitive Approach

Main Assumptions

Methodology Used

Strengths

Weaknesses





Behavioural Approach

Main Assumptions

Methodology Used

Strengths

Weaknesses

Psychodynamic Approach

Main Assumptions

Methodology Used

Strengths

Weaknesses



Evolutionary Approach



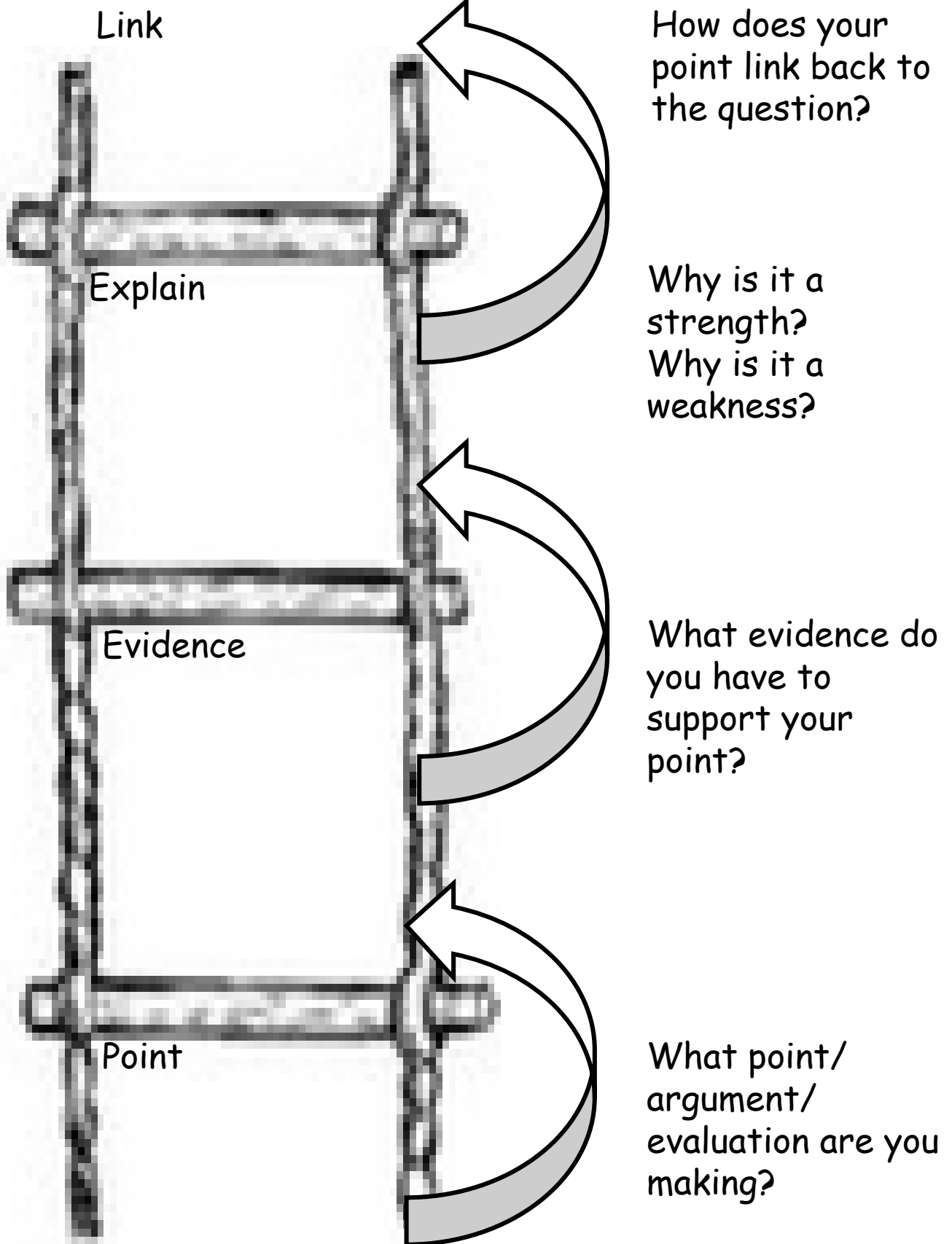
Main Assumptions

Methodology Used

Strengths

Weaknesses

Elaboration Ladder





Evaluation Checklist



Every time you write an essay, think about the following:

- RESEARCH
 - Is there supporting research?
 - Is there contradictory research?
- ISSUE
 - Does the theory/explanation show any gender bias? alpha bias/beta bias?
 - Have they used animals? Is that a strength/weakness?
 - Are there any other ethical issues?
 - Is there any cultural bias? Use beta bias or alpha bias? Is ethnocentrism being displayed? Is it historically biased?
- DEBATE
 - Does the theory/explanation believe people have control over their actions?
 - Does it take into account different factors or does it reduce it down to a single component?
 - Does it believe we are born with the behavior (nature)/develop the behavior (nurture)?
- APPROACH
 - Can I use an alternative approach in my evaluation of it?
- RESEARCH METHOD
 - What methodology has been used?
 - What is the design?
 - Are there demand characteristics?
 - Is there social desirability bias?
 - Does it show validity?
 - Ecological validity? Internal validity?
 - Is it a scientific design - whereby it has good control?