

Approaches

Describe psychosexual stages as outlined in the psychodynamic approach.

[6 marks]

Mark Scheme:

Marks for this question: AO1 = 6

Level	Marks	Description
3	5–6	The description of psychosexual stages is accurate and detailed. The answer is clear and coherent. Specialist terminology is used effectively.
2	3–4	The description of psychosexual stages is present but there may be some minor details missing. The answer is generally coherent with appropriate use of specialist terminology.
1	1–2	The description of psychosexual stages is limited or muddled. Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.
	0	No relevant content.

Possible content:

- there are five developmental stages (oral, anal, phallic, latency and genital)
- oral (0–1yr) – focus of pleasure is the mouth and the mother's breast is the focus of desire
- anal (1–3yrs) – focus of pleasure is the anus and child focuses on withholding and expelling faeces
- phallic (3–5yrs) – focus of pleasure is genitals and children experience the Oedipus/Electra complex
- latency (6–12yrs) – previous conflicts are resolved/repressed and early years are largely forgotten
- genital (12yrs/puberty-adulthood) – sexual desires become conscious with the onset of puberty
- there is an unconscious conflict at each stage which must be resolved before the next stage is reached.

Credit other relevant material, e.g. fixation.

Which of the following shows the correct order of the psychosexual stages of development as proposed by the psychodynamic approach?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Oral, Anal, Genital, Latency, Phallic.

☐

B Oral, Anal, Phallic, Genital, Latency.

☐

C Oral, Anal, Phallic, Latency, Genital.

☐

D Oral, Genital, Anal, Phallic, Latency.

☐

Mark Scheme:

Marks for this question: AO1 = 1

C Oral, Anal, Phallic, Latency, Genital.

Describe the role of defence mechanisms according to the psychodynamic approach.

[2 marks]

Mark Scheme:

Marks for this question: AO1 = 2

2 marks for a clear, elaborated description of the role of defence mechanisms according to the psychodynamic approach.

1 mark for a limited or muddled description of the role of defence mechanisms according to the psychodynamic approach.

Possible content:

- help the ego manage the conflict between the id and the superego
- provide compromise solutions (usually unconscious) to deal with unresolvable conflict
- provide a strategy to reduce anxiety (which weakens the ego's influence)
- use of examples, eg through the use of denial/displacement/repression, to describe the role of defence mechanisms.

Credit other relevant material.

Examiner Comment:

Question 03

This question was a good discriminator of students' understanding. There were some excellent, clear descriptions of the role of defence mechanisms, showing an impressive understanding and use of terminology but also a surprising number of students did not attempt this question. Those students gaining only one of the two marks generally provided a limited description which lacked clear elaboration. Some students were only able to name defence mechanisms but seemed unclear on their role and thus could not gain credit for their answers.

Briefly explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of the psychodynamic approach.

[4 marks]

Mark Scheme:

Marks for this question: AO3 = 4

2 marks for a clear, elaborated strength of the psychodynamic approach.

1 mark for a limited or muddled strength of the psychodynamic approach.

Plus

2 marks for a clear, elaborated limitation of the psychodynamic approach.

1 mark for a limited or muddled limitation of the psychodynamic approach.

Possible content:

- psychotherapy as a treatment for mental health issues
- explanatory power to many psychological topics
- socially sensitive, eg mental health issues may be blamed on parents
- testing of unconscious concepts is unfalsifiable
- lack of scientific rigour
- subjectivity – unconscious thoughts can only be inferred from behaviour or reported thoughts/experiences
- use of evidence to support or contradict the psychodynamic approach, eg studies into the effectiveness of psychotherapy, eg De Maat, et al. (2009), case studies of people who are unable to recall upsetting events, eg Gagnepain, et al. (2014) on suppression, Little Hans.

Credit other relevant strengths or limitations.

Examiner Comment:

Question 04

This question produced a mixed response. Overall limitations were attempted better than the strengths, with most focussing on the lack of scientific rigour/unfalsifiability of the psychodynamic approach, although there were some strong responses using issues and debates from 7182/3 e.g. those which focussed on androcentrism. Strengths tended to be quite general with those relating to treatments most common but overall strengths were often limited or muddled.

Describe the structure of the personality according to the psychodynamic approach.
[4 marks]

Mark Scheme:

Marks for this question: AO1 = 4

Level	Marks	Description
2	3 - 4	Knowledge of the structure of personality according to the psychodynamic approach is clear and mostly accurate. There is effective use of terminology.
1	1 - 2	Knowledge of the structure of personality according to the psychodynamic approach is incomplete/partly accurate. For 1 mark there may be very limited knowledge of the structure of personality or all 3 components may be simply named. Use of terminology is either absent or inappropriate.
	0	No relevant content

Possible content:

- personality is made up of 3 parts; the id, ego and superego. **This point is essential for 4 marks.**
- elaboration regarding the components
 - the id: Focuses on self (selfish), irrational and emotional, deals with feelings and needs, seeks pleasure/hedonistic (reference to 'pleasure principle'), formed from birth-18mo, unconscious part of the mind
 - the ego: Rational, balancing the id and superego, reference to 'reality principle', formed between 18mo-3yrs, conscious part of the mind
 - the superego: Reference to 'morality principle', acts as the conscience or moral guide, based on parental and societal values, formed between 3-6yrs, unconscious part of the mind
- elaboration regarding the dynamic nature of the three components
- experience/conflicts in childhood shape the development of the 3 parts affecting how a person behaves
- description of the levels of consciousness

Credit structural descriptions of personality according to other psychodynamic theorists.

Examiner Comment:

Question 02

Generally done very well with over two-thirds of students achieving level 2 but some lacked the elaboration necessary to gain full marks. There were some good descriptions provided, with quite remarkable detail in some cases and some good answers on levels of consciousness presented. However, there was some confusion over the role of the superego and ego, and many students mistakenly wrote "*the id mediates between the demands of the id and the demands of the superego*". Additionally, some students focussed on the psychosexual stages, which was not awarded credit.

