



PLANNING: The first 6-8 lines of the lined answer section should be used for planning

Neuropsychology is of use when explaining behaviour	Neuropsychology is of limited use when explaining behaviour
1 <sup>st</sup> theory – where neuropsychology is used - Key point 1 (with note form details) - Key point 2 (with note form details) <b>Argument: Link to why it is useful</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> theory – where neuropsychology is criticised - Key limitation 1 (with note form details) - Key limitation 2 (with note form details) <b>Argument: Link to why it is of limited use</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> theory/study – where neuropsychology is used: - Key point 1 (with note form details) - Key point 2 (with note form details)	2 <sup>nd</sup> theory/study – where neuropsychology is criticised - Key limitation 1 (with note form details) - Key limitation 2 (with note form details)
<b>Argument: FINAL points to show which side you agree with most &amp; why.</b>	

AO3 – Provides clear statement that shows learner's argument in response to the question & why it mostly agrees/disagrees with the statement

I mostly disagree with the statement, as although neuropsychology is limited due to its lack of focus on environment and other chemical factors, and the time-consuming and unethical nature of its methods, it does allow valuable insights into links between the functioning of the brain and certain behaviours and conditions..

AO3 – Shows understanding of key debate in the question (is neuropsychology useful or not?)

AO3 – directly answers the essay question

The biological explanation of schizophrenia (sz) relates to neuropsychology because it has used brain scans to conclude that high levels of dopamine are a contributing factor, and have been linked to symptoms like hallucinations and delusions. Certain brain regions have also been implicated; some patients have been found to have lower levels of blood flow in the pre-frontal cortex whilst others have been found to have less grey matter in the temporal lobe and hippocampus. This has been linked to negative symptoms and poor cognitive functioning. Neuropsychology can be seen as useful here as the links made between abnormal brain activity and mental health conditions have led to successful treatments, such as anti-psychotic drugs which alter brain chemistry, reducing symptoms.

AO1 – Describes the key points of the theory in detail and with accuracy.  
These points are directly linked to neuropsychology

AO1 – Describes the results/findings of the study in detail and with accuracy.

The case study of Clive Wearing (CW) is another example which links to neuropsychology. Wilson et al. conducted a longitudinal case study into CW after it was discovered he had the most severe case of amnesia ever recorded. He had both retrograde and anterograde amnesia and could barely remember new information for more than 7 seconds. MRI scans, interviews and medical records were used to draw their conclusions. They made the link between his destroyed hippocampus (due to a Herpes virus) and his memory loss and

AO1 – Describes the research method and procedure that is related to neuropsychology

concluded this was particularly important for helping to store new memories. The CW study is useful in explaining human behaviour as it provided us with a better understanding of the link between brain damage and amnesia and it supported earlier findings relating to the importance of the hippocampus in memory.

AO3 – directly answers the essay question

However, the biological explanation of schizophrenia (sz) may be considered as limited because the focus of studying the role of the brain in sz means that there is a lack of focus on other factors which may contribute to the condition. There is no accounting for free-will, such as drug or alcohol abuse, which can trigger changes in the brain, and thus the symptoms we see. The focus on neuropsychology also ignores other factors such as the role of society, (for example the rejection by society described in the Social Rank Theory) or the impact that trauma can have on the onset of symptoms of sz. Neuropsychology is also questionable when establishing cause and effect; did the abnormal brain activity cause the symptoms or is the brain activity an effect of having the disorder?

AO3 – directly answers the essay question

AO3 – limitations of theory that makes neuropsychology limited in explaining sz.

Also, the use of neuropsychology in the case of CW may be considered as limited as it only focused on one individual, so cannot be generalised to explain all cases of amnesia due to the extent of damage to CW's brain. CW was given neuropsychological tests over 21 years, so it was very time-consuming and expensive and could have caused him psychological distress. The use of neuropsychology in this case was not entirely ethical and must be considered limited in explaining human behaviour.

AO3 – limitations of study that makes neuropsychology limited in explaining memory

AO3 – directly answers the essay question

Overall, I mostly disagree with the statement that neuropsychology is limited in explaining human behaviour. Whilst a focus on one factor or individual and a reliance on case studies could be considered 'limiting', neuropsychology does allow for useful insight into the links between the brain and conditions such as sz and amnesia. This improved understanding has had useful applications for medical professionals and how to treat them, which could not have happened without it.

AO3 – provides clear argument and reasons in response to the statement. Clearly addresses why neuropsychology is useful & limited.

AO3 – outlines to what extent they agree with the statement.