

Spend 5mins understanding & planning the question – what is it asking you?

Use your knowledge and understanding from across psychology to explain how far you agree with the following view point.

“Freud’s research is far too subjective and hence cannot contribute to our understanding of human behaviour”.

In your answer you should refer to Freud’s (1918) dream analysis study of the Wolfman and one study from a different area (topic) of psychology you have studied.

Planning: decide whether you mostly agree or mostly disagree with the statement & why.

Planning: identify the debate in the statement (e.g. **subjectivity/objectivity**; nature/nurture; reductionism/holism; free will/determinism; lab/field experiments etc.

Planning: your 2nd study must come from a different topic (i.e. it cannot be from Sleep & Dreaming)

Planning: the compulsory focus in the question is a study so your 2nd focus must also be a study.

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

1 st SIDE OF ARGUMENT (e.g. nature, subjectivity, free will etc.).	2 nd SIDE OF ARGUMENT (e.g. nurture, objectivity, determinism etc.)
1 st theory/study: - Key point (with note form details) - Key point (with note form details) <i>Link to why it’s this side of argument</i>	2 nd theory/study - Key point (with note form details) - Key point (with note form details) <i>Link to why it’s this side of argument</i>
1 st theory/study: - Key limitation 1 (shows other side of debate) - Key limitation 2 (shows other side of debate)	2 nd theory/study - Key limitation 1 (shows other side of debate) - Key limitation 2 (shows other side of debate)

FINAL points to show which side you agree with most & why.

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

I mostly agree with the statement, as although Freud's research was very subjective, he introduced new methods and ideas on how to treat and work with participants. Subjectivity means that the researcher is biased towards their own feelings and thoughts on the subject, and their findings are based on opinion rather than facts. This would make it difficult for a psychologist to reliably explain human behaviour as there is a possibility the data is wrong, and the psychologist has misinterpreted it to support their own beliefs on the subject. It is much better for research to be objective, meaning that it can be supported by facts and data that has been tested in an unbiased way.

AO3 – Shows understanding of key debate in the question (subjectivity v. objectivity)

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

Freud's research was focused upon the Wolfman, who had come to him for help and struggled with mental illnesses. The longitudinal study used a series of interviews about his dreams with a sample of one man. Freud suggested that the latent content of the Wolfman's dreams were that he wanted to experience the pleasure he saw on his mother when he was younger, however was scared of his father would castrate him. This was shown from the manifest content, which had white wolves with large tails sitting on a tree, watching the Wolfman. The wolves and fear the Wolfman had for them represents how Wolfman fears his father, and the white of the wolves represent the white of the bedlinen and parents underclothes. This study is valuable in explaining human behaviour as it supports Freud's theory, and outlines the role of repression in dreaming. It shows that any trauma from past memories will be repressed will eventually come out in the form of dreams, as shown by the dream of Wolfman. However, Freud's research is very subjective; his research focused on dream analysis, which is considered very subjective because of the different ways of interpreting the dreams, and how

AO1 – Describes the methods and sample of the study.

AO3 – how the study is subjective

AO3 – argument for value of Freud’s study in explaining behaviour

different researchers can have different opinions on the same dream. This limits how much it can explain of human behaviour, as there is no way to prove, or disprove, that Freud's thoughts on the Wolfman's dreams are true. Freud's theory is also a case study with Wolfman as the only participant, so it cannot be generalised to the wider population. As the Wolfman had mental illnesses it means that even if Freud's analysis of the dreams were verified, it could not contribute valuably to understanding human behavior and could only really be generalised to those with the same mental illnesses as the Wolfman.

AO3 – limitation of sampling that makes the study subjective

AO3 – directly answers the essay question

AO3 – directly answers the essay question

AO1 – Describes the aim and research method

A study that shows much more objectivity is Cooper and Mackie's study investigating how violent video games affect aggressive behaviour. They used a laboratory experiment, which would be very objective as extraneous variables could be controlled, and it could give data through the use of the independent variable and dependent variable. This study put 84 children into three different groups which were split into matched pairs of observers and players. The different groups were asked to play/observe either a violent video game, Pac Man or a maze game (used as the control). They had 8 minutes to watch/observe the game and were they would be randomly assigned to either a play room experimenter watching the children and writing down the toys they played with, or a testing room (asked children to use a buzzer to show how much they would punish or reward people to test their aggression).

AO3 – directly answers the essay question

AO1 – Describes the sample & procedure of the study in detail and with accuracy. N.B. the results are not needed to answer the qu.

This experiment is much more objective than Freud's study as it had multiple experimenters looking at results, meaning it is very unlikely there could be researcher bias. The dependent variable also gave quantitative results, which would be difficult to misinterpret. This is important in explaining human behaviour as it means the conclusion is much more likely to be valid, and so is more likely to be true than subjective research with no facts or evidence for the conclusion, like in Freud's study. However, using a lab experiment means that Cooper and Mackie's study lacked ecological validity. Children would normally not play games under strict time conditions, and there is normally not someone observing the game who cannot play it at all. This experiment also does not take into account the fact that it may take time for video games to cause more violent behaviour in children. This study could also be considered too objective, as there are no descriptive explanations of the children's behaviour or the results.

AO3 – directly answers the essay question by comparing Freud's study (subjective) to Cooper & Mackie (objective)

AO3 – limitation of research method that affects its ability to explain human behaviour.

AO3 – directly answers the essay question

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

Overall, I mostly agree with the statement. This is because I believe data should be mostly objective as it can be verified by others. However, subjectivity can be useful as it gives a more detailed explanation for human behaviour which would not be able to be given or received through tests or experiments, such as dreaming. This is why I believe that Freud can only explain human behaviour in a limited way, as there is no way to prove that he is correct in his thoughts of dreaming. However, he still contributes to explaining human behaviour as he gives explanations for ideas which would be very difficult to test objectively.

AO3 – provides clear argument and reasons in response to the statement. Clearly addresses the value of Freud's research to show other side.