

A2 ISSUES / DEBATES



**DETERMINISM – FREE WILL
DEBATE**

DETERMINISM



- This represents the view that all behaviours/thoughts/beliefs are determined by factors out of our control.
- **Free will** represents the view that behaviours, thoughts & actions are due to our own choice.



ASSUMPTIONS of Determinism

- All behaviours are **caused**, and therefore can be **predicted**. Determinist explanations can come from any approach:

Eg: How could the different approaches explain the **cause** of dysfunctional behaviour such as **anxiety/depression**?

Focus on one approach:

- Social
- Cognitive
- Physiological
- Behaviourist
- Psychodynamic



- Most approaches aim to give a cause for behaviour and are therefore **determinist**
- The argument is ***how far*** the explanation is **determinist**
- **Soft determinism**: as humans we do have choices & can exercise freewill, but these choices are *constrained* (or determined) by other factors.
- Which Approaches are the most determinist??
Why?



STRENGTHS OF DETERMINISM



- Emphasis on **cause & effect** makes world more understandable & predictable. (Thus, encourages beneficial interventions)
- EG:

- Determinism is **key goal of science**: to explain the causes of things (more acceptable & objective)
- EG:

WEAKNESSES OF DETERMINISM



- Does not recognise free will over behaviour (what about legal & moral choices in society?)
- EG:

- Determinism can never fully explain behaviour (behaviour is too complex & variable)
- EG:

DETERMINISM - FREE-WILL DEBATE

This is about....

Key words:

Strengths



Evidence

Weaknesses



ECOLOGICAL VALIDITY

This is about

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STUDIES WITH HIGH ECOLOGICAL
VALIDITY:

Piliavin:

STUDIES WITH LOW ECOLOGICAL
VALIDITY: