

DEBATES IN PSYCHOLOGY: Psychology as science



Is psychology a science?



- Psychology is a relatively new subject discipline and it has often struggled to be taken as seriously as ‘traditional’ science subjects such as biology, chemistry and physics.
- If psychology was to be regarded as a science then:
 - there is the possibility that the subject could have a greater status.
 - it also helps us to think about what psychology is and how psychology should be done.

- In general the **scientific approach** can be said to have the following features in common:
 - **Objectivity:** science subjects should be free from personal views and feeling; this is known as being subjective.
 - **Falsifiability:** theories should be able to be disproved. If a theory can be disproved it clearly does not work and, alternatively, if a theory can be proved it does work.
 - **Replicability:** only the findings from methods that can be replicated by others are accepted.

Psychology as Science: Evidence For:

- Studies from AS that take a scientific view:
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3

- Studies from A2:
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3

Psychology as Science: Evidence against:

- AS Studies:
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
- A2 Studies:
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3