



Definitions and Concepts for AQA Psychology A-level

Option 1: Gender

Androgen: A group of hormones involved in the development of typically male biological characteristics, including testosterone.

Androgen insensitivity syndrome: A condition in which a person with XY chromosomes has cells that are unable to respond normally to androgens, affecting the development of their biological sex characteristics.

Androgyny: A type of gender identity characterised by a balance or high combination of both masculine and feminine psychological traits, measured as a high score on both scales of the Bem Sex Role Inventory.

Bem Sex Role Inventory: A questionnaire used to measure the extent to which a person identifies with characteristics traditionally associated with masculinity and femininity.

Chromosomes: Structures containing genetic information; sex chromosomes contribute to the development of biological sex.

Gender: The socially constructed characteristics, roles and behaviours associated with being male, female or another gender.

Gender constancy: The understanding that a person's gender remains the same despite changes in their appearance or behaviour.

Gender fluid: Having a gender identity that can change or vary over time.

Gender identity: A person's understanding or sense of their own gender.

Gender incongruence: A mismatch between a person's experienced or expressed gender and the sex they were assigned at birth.

Gender roles: Socially constructed expectations about the behaviours and characteristics considered appropriate for people based on their gender.

Gender schema: A mental framework containing information about gender that influences how a person processes information about gender.





Gender schema theory: Martin and Halverson's (1981) theory that children develop gender schemas from information in their environment and use these schemas to guide their understanding and behaviour relating to gender.

Gender stability: The understanding that a person's gender remains the same over time.

Hormones: Chemical messengers released by glands that influence biological processes and development.

Klinefelter's syndrome: A sex chromosome variation in which a person typically has an XXY chromosome pattern.

Kohlberg's theory: A cognitive theory proposing that gender development occurs through three stages: gender identity, gender stability and gender constancy.

Media influence (on gender): The role of television, advertising, books, and online content in providing gender-typed role models and reinforcing gender stereotypes through vicarious reinforcement.

Non-binary: A gender identity that does not fit exclusively within the categories of male or female.

Oestrogen: A group of hormones involved in the development and regulation of typically female biological characteristics and reproductive functions.

Oxytocin: A hormone involved in processes including childbirth, breastfeeding and social bonding.

Sex: Biological characteristics associated with being male, female or having variations in sex development.

SRY gene: A gene on the Y chromosome that triggers the development of the testes during early embryonic development.

Testosterone: An androgen hormone involved in the development of typically male biological characteristics and reproductive functions.

Turner's syndrome: A sex chromosome variation in females characterized by a single X chromosome (XO pattern, 45 chromosomes total).

