

Definitions and Concepts for AQA Psychology A-level

Option 1: Gender

Androgyny: (Andro = man, gyny = female) Partially male and partially female.

Bem sex role inventory: A questionnaire that aims to assess a person's masculinity or femininity.

Electra complex: A theory of gender development according to Freud. This theory suggests that to develop gender identity, a female must overcome her jealousy to her father and her "penis envy" and ultimately identify with her mother.

Gender: Socially constructed differences between males and females.

Gender constancy: The third stage of gender development according to Kohlberg. This where the child develops the understanding the gender does not change with superficial changes e.g. a male growing long hair or wearing a dress.

Gender dysphoria: When there is an incongruity between a person's sex and gender.

Gender identity: The first stage of gender development according to Kohlberg. This is where the child first identifies themselves and others as male or female.

Gender roles: Social constructs that suggest specific roles for males and females, such as the males being breadwinners and females being caregivers.

Gender schema theory: A theory of gender development which suggests gender develops as a result of ideas from the environment that are reinforced.

Gender stability: The second stage of gender development according to Kohlberg. This is where the child is now aware that their gender (and others) does not change.

Identification: A stage of gender development according to Freud where the child "identifies" with their same-sex parent (i.e. the daughter with the mother, and the son with the father.)

Internalisation: Another stage of gender development according to Freud where the child wholly and internally adopts the beliefs of the parent they identify with.

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Klinefelter's syndrome: A genetic disorder wherein a person is born with the chromosome profile XXY.

Kohlberg's theory: A theory to explain the development of the idea of gender within children, suggesting it arises in 3 stages; gender identity, gender stability and gender constancy.

Oedipus complex: A theory of gender development according to Freud. This theory suggests that to develop gender identity, a male must overcome his feelings of jealousy towards his father and then identify with him.

Oxytocin: Sometimes referred to as the "love hormone". A hormone that is released during childbirth, breastfeeding and bonding.

Sex: Biological differences between males and females.

Testosterone: A hormone that plays an important role in the development of males.

Turner's syndrome: A genetic disorder wherein a person is born with the chromosome profile X.

