

## Definitions and Concepts for AQA Psychology A-level

### Option 3: Aggression

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**Aggression:** To show anger/hostility.

**Cognitive priming:** An explanation for aggression that suggests through constant exposure to violent media, people begin to prepare aggressive, scripted responses, which are ready to be enacted to a stimulus.

**Deindividuation:** When a person no longer acts and thinks like an individual in the presence of a group.

**Desensitisation:** A term used to describe people becoming used to seeing violence and aggression due to constant exposure through media, such as news or films. Thus, the threshold to be shocked at aggression is raised all the time.

**Disinhibition:** Removing inhibitions from previously unacceptable behaviour. In aggression, this term serves to explain how via new norms introduced in the media, certain aggressions become acceptable.

**Dispositional explanation:** An explanation for institutional aggression that suggests certain individuals are predisposed to being aggressive because of certain traits that individual has.

**Ethological explanation:** An explanation of aggression which suggests that it is a natural response. Its purpose could be understood if it were to be observed in nature. Upon observation, it suggests aggression is a useful tool to maintain survival by using it to obtain resources, and keep land.

**Fixed action patterns:** The second part of the exhibiting aggression. The behaviour that is released after the innate releasing mechanism has been activated.

**Frustration-aggression hypothesis:** The theory that every experience of frustration leads to build of aggression (which is unavoidable). This eventually leads to the need to relapse of aggression which exults in aggressive behaviours.

**Innate releasing mechanisms:** The first part of exhibiting aggression. The natural algorithm that exists to prepare a person to exhibit aggressive behaviour.

**Institutional aggression:** Aggression that is exhibited by a group in an institute, for example prisoners.

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**Limbic system:** A group of structures in the brain that are involved with emotion and long-term memory.

**MAOA gene:** An enzyme in humans that is said to be associated with certain aggressive behaviours.

**Serotonin:** A neurotransmitter that is responsible for maintaining mood and well being.

**Situational explanation:** An explanation for institutional aggression that suggests it arises because of the environment and atmosphere in the institution.

