

# Sex and Gender Revision Notes

Sex identity refers to our biological make-up. Our physical characteristics that determine whether we are male or female.

Gender identity refers to our emotional feelings and whether we consider ourselves to be male or female.

Sex typing is classifying objects into for male or female.

Androgyny is the existence of something male and female characteristics in one person.

Biological facts	
Male	Female
XY	XX
Testes	Womb
Sperm duct	Vagina
Testosterone	Progesterone
Penis	

Maccoby and Jacklin's study	
They found that:	
Verbal abilities	Girls better
Visio-spatial	Boys better
Intelligence	Girls better
Arithmetic reasoning	Boys better
Aggressiveness	Boys more

Sexual orientation: the way in which people are attracted to a male or female.

Biology has an influence on our gender identity. This is supported by Money's case study of circumcision. There was a boy born who had very damaged penis so they decided to give him a castration and he was brought up as a girl. However, a few years into adulthood, the girl hated girl's clothes, wanted to do male things that she had to be told that she was born a boy. When she knew, she decided to go back to being a male.

## Psychoanalytical approach

The unconscious mind

The Id

The Ego

The superego

5 stages		
0 - 1	Oral Stage	Putting things in mouth
1 - 3	Anal Stage	Urinating properly
3 - 5	Phallic Stage	Pleasure through genitals
5 - puberty	Latency Period	Repress sexual thoughts
Adolescence - Adulthood	Genital Stage	Things done to achieve sexual pleasures.

Gender is acquired in the Phallic Stage where the child has to solve the Oedipus complex. The child falls in love with their opposite sex parents. Boys try and become like their father to gain the approval of their mother and so this is when they start acting like boys. Girls on the other hand don't act like their mother to get their father's approval. But they are scared to lose their mother if she finds out about their daughter's love for their father so they just act like their mother hoping that their mother would love them back.

### Little Hans

He was scared of white horses who had black coloring around their mouths and that was a problem for Hans and their family. Freud concluded that Hans was actually scared of his father, not of the horse and the horse symbolized his father. His father had a black moustache, which symbolizes the black coloring. Hans was afraid that the horse might bite him just as his father might castrate him.

#### Evaluation of the approach:

- Case studies cannot be applied to everyone else.
- The study is putting women as inferior to men. Women had 'penis envy' and they don't internalize as much because they don't have strong morals.

#### Practical applications:

- One parent families are common nowadays and it is usually the mother bringing up the child so there are no issues with that and boys don't have gender identity problems.

### Social learning theory

Observation/imitation is when someone learns someone else's behaviours. Children imitate similar behaviours. Bandura showed that aggressive boys were more likely to copy behaviours of aggressive men than aggressive women. This suggests that children will copy and follow the behaviours and attitudes of similar people, suggesting that they imitate same sex behaviour.

Children are likely to copy appropriate behaviours. In Bandura's experiment, an aggressive female/male child is more likely to copy the behaviours of an aggressive man than an aggressive woman and that is because aggressive behaviours is more appropriate to males than females so it was copied. Therefore if a child sees that a particular behaviour is more appropriate to one sex then the child is likely to copy it.

<b>Bandura - Bobo dolls study</b>	
<b>Aim</b>	To prove that children copy appropriate behaviours.
<b>Method</b>	Had four groups of participants: 1 - watched a real actor acting aggressively 2 - watched a filmed version of aggressive behaviour 3 - watched a cartoon version of aggressive behaviour 4 - watched no aggression

<b>Results</b>	Most aggression was from group 3 (cartoon), then group 2 (film), then group 1 (real-life acting). Least was shown by group 4 as they didn't watch any aggression.
<b>Conclusion</b>	From this it can be concluded that we need a role model to copy/imitate and children copy behaviour that is most appropriate to them.
<b>Evaluation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aggression is a limited aspect of behaviour and cannot be applied to all gender identities.</li> <li>2. The experiment lacked ecological validity (lab experiment)</li> </ol>

Vicarious reinforcement

→ when you are awarded or punished for a particular behaviour .

<b>Fagot</b>	
<b>Aim</b>	To prove that parents encourage gender identity in their children.
<b>Method</b>	Observed 24 sets of parents with their families.
<b>Results</b>	Found that girls were encouraged to play with dolls, dance, appreciate clothes and stay close to their parents. Boys were encouraged to be active and play with cars or guns.
<b>Conclusion</b>	From this it can be concluded that parents treat their children differently but all these encouragements provide a basis for gender identity.
<b>Evaluation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parents might only be acting in that way as they are being observed; responding to demand characteristics.</li> </ol>

Evaluation of the theory:

- Doesn't take into account hormones and chromosomes.
- Difficult to explain why some males do adopt certain female behaviours and vice versa.

Practical applications:

- Single parent families:  
Only mothers bring up children and so male children have no male role model to imitate but there is no problem with these children's gender identity.
- Male aggression in gender models:  
Studies always show that males have higher aggression levels than females and that may be because of the gender models they are exposed to. We can reduce the exposure of boys to non-aggressive male gender models through TV, films and other media portrayals of male violence.