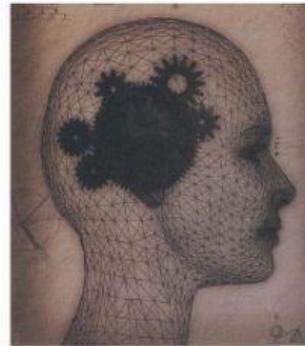


Content words and Structural words

Classifying psychology

As psychology is such a wide discipline, it can be classified in a variety of ways. For example, it can be viewed either as a pure Science or as an applied Science. It can also be classified according to approach: process or person. Alternatively, psychology can be classed under several major theoretical principles: behaviorist, cognitive, psychodynamic, humanistic and social constructivist. In addition to these categories, psychology can be divided into specialist fields; for example: biopsychology, social, developmental, forensic and clinical psychology.



When its main function is to research basic principles, psychology is regarded as a pure Science. The academic psychologist researches into theory, expends knowledge and lays the foundations for further research. Theoretical research is usually carried out under controlled conditions and is particularly relevant to the fields of biopsychology and neuropsychology. However, pure science can have wider, practical applications.

