

KRM 310 (A): CRIMINOLOGY THEORY

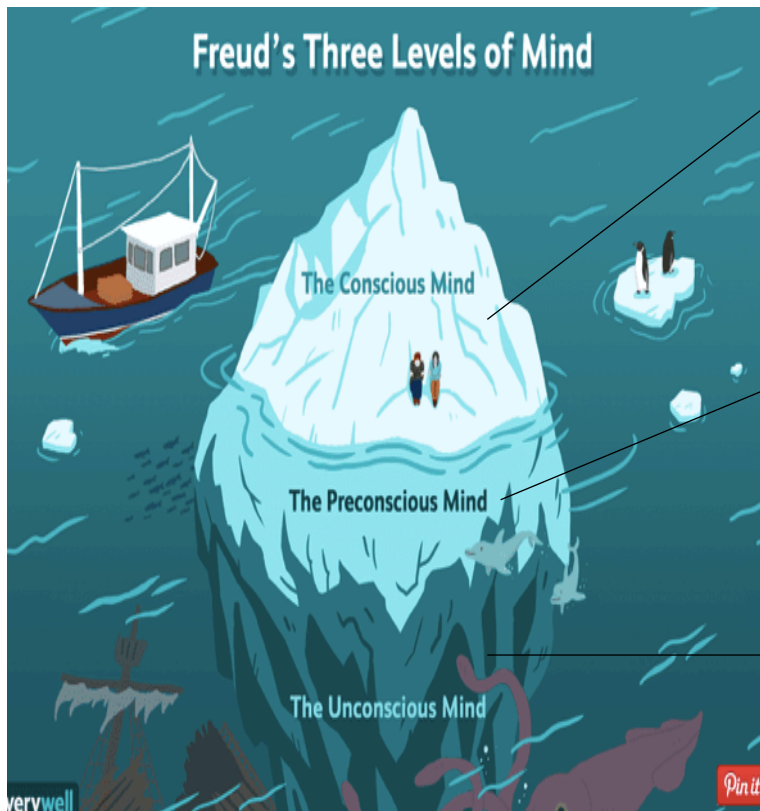
UNIT 4: PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

Psychological theories argue that criminal behaviour originates in the PERSONALITIES of the offenders rather than their biology or environmental factors. Psychological theories have been classified into 3 areas:

- **PSYCHODYNAMIC THEORIES:** (examine unconscious behaviours believed to cause criminal behaviour)
- **BEHAVIOURAL THEORIES:** (examine the learning processes that lead to criminal behaviour)
- **COGNITIVE THEORIES:** (looks at how thought processes (thinking + morals), affect one's behaviour.

Psychodynamic theory (10 Marks + 5 Marks case study)

Sigmund Freud adopted the idea of the unconscious and argued that some behaviours could be explained by traumatic experiences in early childhood. He believed that these experiences left a mark on the individual that was buried in the unconscious (the individual was not consciously aware of those experiences). Freud argued that there were **3 levels of the mind**:



1. **Conscious:** aspect of the mind that people are most aware of (daily thoughts)

2. **Preconscious:** contains elements of experiences that are outside of our awareness but can be brought back to consciousness anytime (memories and experiences)

3. **Unconscious:** contains biological desires and urges that cannot readily be experienced as thoughts (feelings about sex, hostility – which people keep below the surface of consciousness by a process called *Repression*).

Freud later categorized the unconscious and conscious into 3 categories:

