



PROGRAM SUPPORT NOTES

Offender Profiling

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For Teachers

Introduction

What do forensic psychologists actually do and where do they work?

Forensic psychology is one of the fastest growing areas of employment of psychology graduates, although currently there are fewer than 1000 chartered forensic psychologists in the UK. They deal with the application of psychology in the criminal and civil justice field and they can work for Academic Institutions, Prison Services, the National Health Service, Probation Services, Police Services and Social Services.

The largest single employer of forensic psychologists in the UK is the HM prison service. Work is undertaken with offenders, victims, criminal and civil justice staff and managers.

Two key areas of development in recent years have been "risk assessment" procedures with offenders in general and interventions with sex offenders in particular, with a focus upon reducing the risk of re-offending. Forensic psychologists are also increasingly becoming involved in child protection work with social services.

Key tasks can include:

- Piloting and implementing treatment programs
- Modifying offender behaviour
- Responding to the changing needs of staff and prisoners
- Reducing stress for staff and prisoners
- Providing research evidence to support practice
- Undertaking statistical analysis for prisoner profiling
- Giving expert evidence in court
- Advising parole boards and mental health tribunals
- Crime analysis.

To summarise, a forensic psychologist sets up and evaluates treatment programs. They work with offender behaviour to look at the needs of the prisoner as well as the needs of the staff. They also conduct research (as all psychologists do). In profiling a prisoner the information can be used in a review, in court, at parole hearings as well as being involved in analysing crime. Forensic psychologists are part of a multi-disciplinary team that help to assess problems and intervention and can help with developing policy for offending behaviour. An important development is that forensic psychologists can also work with the victims of crime including witnesses who may be adversely affected by their experience.

To find out about the work of the criminal psychologist visit the NHS website – www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

Becoming a forensic psychologist

a) The qualifications that are required:

- A psychology degree that is recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS).
- Work experience.
- A Diploma in Forensic psychology which is in two parts: part 1 is a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology. Part 2 consists of two years of supervised practice.
- Chartered status. This means that you have satisfied the requirements of the BPS and have sufficient qualifications and experience to be called a psychologist. There is a directory of chartered psychologists and all are bound by the ethical guidelines of the society.

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b) The skills that are required:

- Communication and problem-solving skills: Good communication is essential as you have to be able to listen carefully and interact well with a variety of people from a variety of backgrounds. Being able to understand 'how' things are said as well as 'what' is said is also essential. As you will also have to write reports, you will have to have the skills to do this effectively.

Specific areas that these skills relate to in forensic psychology are:

- Advising prison governors about prisoners and staff to implement change or other organisational issues.
- Carrying out one-to-one assessments and treatments of prisoners such as that requested by the court or the prison governor.
- Assessing the risk of re-offending using a variety of methods such as one-to-one assessment and psychometric tests.
- Presenting assessment findings to others.
- Carrying out research projects such as the number of re-offenders on particular programs. For example the re-offending rates of people on ASBOs (Antisocial Behaviour Orders) or to implement stress management or anger management programs to help prisoners and staff deal with potential problems.
- Last but not least, the forensic psychologist does crime analysis such as using offender profiling which is likely to assist the police.

Offender profiling:

This describes the process used to help the police catch criminals. It helps to narrow the number of suspects that the police should investigate which is extremely important in a case that could have many thousands of suspects. One such case is that of the so called 'Railway Rapist' mentioned in the film.

Timeline

00:00:00	What is offender profiling?
00:05:20	Approaches
00:14:50	Application and evaluation
00:24:25	Credits
00:24:58	End program

Recommended Resources

- Forensic Psychology: A Practitioner's Guide [Paperback] G.H. Gudjonsson (Author), L.R.C. Haward (Author).

Initiate Prior Learning

Students often have a preconceived idea about what forensic psychology is about. Undoubtedly influenced by such programs as Cracker and more recently the CSI series, these ideas can be explored by asking the students to write for five minutes on a definition. Inform them to restrict their use of the words serial killers, offender profiling and definitely any references to Silence of the Lambs!

Reassure the students that the answer to the question, what is forensic psychology may not quite be what they thought, however that doesn't mean that the subject has to be any less interesting and is actually more relevant and wide reaching than those popular television programs would have us believe.

On 7th June 2010 Psychology Today published an article in America by Marisa Mauro, Psy.D. which describes what Forensic Psychology is:

Forensic psychology is the interaction of the practice or study of psychology and the law. Psychologists interested in this line of applied work may be found working in prisons, jails, rehabilitation centres, police departments, law firms, schools, government agencies, or in private practice, to name a few. They may work directly with attorneys, defendants, offenders, victims, pupils, families, or with patients within the state's corrections or rehabilitation centres. Other psychologists interested in forensic psychology focus on the study of psychology and the law. They may work in colleges, universities, government agencies, or in other settings interested in researching and examining the interaction of human behaviour, criminology, and the legal system.

So in essence then, forensic psychology refers to the application of psychology within a legal context. They work in courts to uncover psychological issues; they look at psychological aspects of criminal activity and look at psychological issues to do with treating criminals.

Check to see if your students have written anything similar.

Active Viewing Guide

Ask the students:

- a) To describe John Duffy (his features, level of attractiveness, age etc.). Check with the picture below.
- b) How did the police know the approximate age of the 'Railway Rapist'?



Collection of evidence

The police investigate physical clues such as finger prints, DNA, photographs, that might be left at the scene of crime as well as the approximate time the crime was committed etc. However, the forensic psychologist is interested in the way in which a crime is committed. This will give additional clues for the police to work with. Such clues can be:

- The type of victim
- The type of crime
- The location
- The time of day or night
- Specific features of the crime
- What is taken or left behind

How is a profile created?

Using the evidence collected by the police the profiler starts to build up a list of probable features of the criminal. The profile itself will consist of such information as the:

- Sex of the offender
- His or her race
- The age
- Whether they might be married or not
- Their intellectual ability
- Any possible criminal history
- Where the criminal might live

Offender Profiling

The case of John Duffy (The Railway Rapist)

Student Activity: Ask the students to write down as much information as they can remember of this case.

David Canter is one of Britain's leading offender profilers. He was asked to help the police build up a profile of a man who had committed a series of sex attacks and murders. Based on the gathered evidence the police believed that it was the same man committing these crimes. Using the information from the police David Cantor was able to start to build the offender profile. This evidence consisted of the facts as well as the evidence gathered at the scene – see below:

The facts:

- 26 sex attacks committed between 1982-1986
- Three murders between 1985-1986
- The type of victims were all young women
- Every one of the offences were carried out in and around London often near railway stations

Evidence from the scene of the murders:

- 2 out of 3 victims were attacked near a railway station.
- All the victims hands were tied
- 2 out of 3 victims were strangled, the other one was suffocated.
- There had been an attempt to get rid of the bodies and/or evidence. One victim; Alison Day's pockets were filled with stones to keep her submerged in a canal. Another victim Maartje Tamboezer was partly burned.

This information helped David Canter to produce a profile that subsequently led to the arrest of John Duffy. Canter described 17 personality traits of which 12 were completely accurate. Some of these are listed below:

David Cantor's profile of John Duffy	Facts about John Duffy
Lived in London (as all the victims were attacked in and around the area)	Lived in Kilburn, London
Was married with no children (being an 'organised' serial rapist and murderer he planned the attacks and the disposal of evidence. This suggested that he was an intelligent man who was able to hold down a job and a marriage)	Married with no children as he was infertile
Had problems with his marriage (the reasoning here was that he was possibly sexually frustrated and attacked women as a result of this frustration and possible anger towards his wife)	Separated
A small built man (Cantor reasoned that he tied his victims up because he was not strong enough to restrain them). Also because he was small he would not be seen as a threat to his victims when he approached them.	Measured 5'4 inches tall

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David Cantor's profile of John Duffy	Facts about John Duffy
Physically unattractive	Unattractive
Had an interest in martial arts as being small in stature he would resort to other forms of 'defence' to make up for his lack of physical strength.	Member of a martial arts club
He was aged between 20-30 years (statistically, most crimes against women in the age group Duffy attacked are committed by men in this age group)	29 years old when arrested

It was later found that Duffy had an accomplice, David MulCahy although MulCahy still protests his innocence (see below). For a detailed time line of the attacks and the on-going investigation of attacks on women possibly by Duffy and MulCahy visit www.murderuk.com/serial_john_duffy_david_mulcahy.html



How a forensic psychologist might help treat offenders

Part of the job of forensic psychologists is to develop rehabilitation programs such as anger management, social skills training to learn how to interact with others, as well as treatments for addiction. The aim of treatment is to address not only the behaviour of the offender but also their psychological needs such as anxiety and depression in an endeavour to help the offender manage their own behaviour more successfully. This can be done through skills training, one-to-one and group work sessions.

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Some methods are listed below:

Personal Construct therapy helps the individual to understand how they 'see' people. For example if a person has a personal belief or construct that 'all fathers love their children' but that person may have been abused by their own father, then rather than blame their father, they may, in fact blame themselves because their belief system says that 'All father's love their children'. This may mean that they would believe that they are unworthy of love. Therefore, for sex offenders, their only chance to obtain love would be to 'take it'. The forensic psychologist would help the person to understand that indeed 'Not all fathers love their children' and that it might be the fault of the father, rather than the fault of the child. Therefore examining our belief system and how we 'construct' our relationships with people will hopefully lead to re-constructions and an improvement in behaviour.

Forensic psychologists as mentioned earlier are particularly involved with the treatment of Sex offenders. Treatment for these offenders is mandatory. Sex offending itself is very complex and there can be no simple explanation. Many factors are implicated such as early life experience and even possible biological predisposition. Therefore a combination of treatments is often given ranging from drug therapy to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). CBT usually involves weekly sessions of up to twenty sessions where the prisoner is helped to identify irrational and unhelpful thoughts and encouraged to change them. The prisoner may be involved in drawing diagrams that show a link between their thinking, their behaviour and their emotions. Some sex offenders for example are thought to misinterpret signals from women. By seeing the link between their thoughts ('she fancies me'), when in fact she is being polite or is embarrassed by the approach, and the emotion (the feeling of elation that sexual arousal brings), with the behaviour of making inappropriate sexual advances, some success has been reported. Evidence shows that CBT is actually more successful for the treatment of sex offenders than drug regimes.

Extension Activities

Student assessment- Forensic psychology

Teacher instructions: cut and laminate all the statements below, shuffle them and ask the students to state if they are correct or incorrect. The correct statements are on the left so keep a copy of the table below.

Correct Statements	Incorrect Statements
Forensic psychology refers to the application of psychology within a legal context. They work in courts to uncover psychological issues; they look at psychological aspects of criminal activity and look at psychological issues to do with treating criminals.	Forensic psychology refers to the application of psychology within a criminal context. They work in courts to uncover psychological issues; they look at psychological aspects of criminal activity and refer criminals to other psychologists for treatment.
Forensic psychology is one of the fastest growing areas of employment of psychology graduates although currently there are fewer than 1000 chartered forensic psychologists in the UK. They deal with the application of psychology in the criminal and civil justice field and they can work for Academic Institutions, Prison Services, the National Health Service, Probation Services, Police Services and Social Services.	Forensic psychology is one of the fastest growing areas of employment of psychology graduates and there are currently over 100,000 chartered forensic psychologists in the UK alone. They deal with the application of psychology in the criminal and civil justice field and they can work for Academic Institutions, Prison Services, the National Health Service, Probation Services, Police Services and Social Services
The largest single employer of forensic psychologists in the UK is the HM prison service. Work is undertaken with offenders, victims, criminal and civil justice staff and managers.	The largest single employer of forensic psychologists in the UK is the National Health Service.
Two key areas of development in recent years have been "risk assessment" procedures with offenders in general and interventions with sex offenders in particular, with a focus upon reducing the risk of re-offending. Also, forensic psychologists are increasingly becoming involved in child protection work with social services.	Two key areas of development in recent years have been advising on television productions featuring forensic psychology. Also, forensic psychologists are increasingly becoming involved in child protection work with social services.

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<p>The key tasks of a forensic psychologist can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloting and implementing treatment programs • Modifying offender behaviour • Responding to the changing needs of staff and prisoners • Reducing stress for staff and prisoners • Providing research evidence to support practice • Undertaking statistical analysis for prisoner profiling • Giving expert evidence in court • Advising parole boards and mental health tribunals • Crime analysis. 	<p>The key tasks of a forensic psychologist can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing treatment programs and referring the offender to an appropriately trained person. • Modifying offender behaviour • Responding to the changing needs of prisoners • Reducing stress for staff who deal with offenders • Providing research evidence to support practice • Undertaking statistical analysis for prisoner profiling • Giving expert evidence in court • Crime analysis.
<p>The qualifications that are needed to become a forensic psychologist are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A psychology degree that is recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS). • Work experience with appropriate agencies. • A Diploma in Forensic psychology which is in two parts: part 1 is a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology. Part 2 consists of two years of supervised practice. • Chartered status. This means that you have satisfied the requirements of the BPS and have sufficient qualifications and experience to be called a psychologist. There is a directory of chartered psychologists and all are bound by the ethical guidelines of the society. 	<p>The qualifications that are needed to become a forensic psychologist are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A combined honours degree in psychology and criminology or • A combined honours degree in psychology and law. • Work experience with offenders. • A Diploma in Forensic psychology which is in two parts: part 1 is a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology. Part 2 consists of six months of supervised practice. • Experience of being a member of a jury.
<p>The skills that are required to become a forensic psychologist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and problem-solving skills: Good communication is essential as you have to be able to <i>listen carefully</i> and interact well with a variety of people from a variety of backgrounds. Being able to understand 'how' things are said as well as 'what' is said is also essential. As you will also have to write reports, you will have to have the skills to do this effectively. 	<p>The skills that are required to become a forensic psychologist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and problem-solving skills: Good communication is essential as you have to be able to <i>listen carefully</i> and interact well with a variety of people from a variety of backgrounds. Being able to use your intuition is important. Placing yourself in the mind of the offender is essential. As you will also have to write reports, you will have to have the skills to do this effectively.

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<p>Forensic psychologists:</p> <p>* Give advice to prison governors about prisoners, staff to implement change or other organisational issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out one-to-one assessments and treatments of prisoners such as that requested by the court or the prison governor. • Assess the risk of re-offending using a variety of methods such as one-to-one assessment and psychometric tests. • Present assessment findings to others. • Carrying out research projects such as the number of re-offenders on particular programs. For example the re-offending rates of people on ASBOs (Antisocial Behaviour Orders) or to implement stress management or anger management programs to help prisoners and staff deal with potential problems. • Last but not least the forensic psychologist does crime analysis such as using offender profiling which is likely to assist the police. 	<p>Forensic psychologists:</p> <p>* Give advice to prison governors about prisoners to ensure they are not released before the expected date of release.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out one-to-one assessments and treatments of prisoners such as that requested by the court. • Assess the risk of re-offending using a variety of methods such as one-to-one assessment and the opinion of the prison officers. • Carrying out research projects such as the number of re-offenders on particular programs. For example the re-offending rates of people on ASBOs (Antisocial Behaviour Orders). <p>* Implement stress management or anger management programs to help staff deal with potential problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last but not least the forensic psychologist does crime analysis such as using offender profiling which is likely to assist the police.
<p>Offender profiling:</p> <p>This describes the process used to help the police catch criminals. It helps to narrow the number of suspects that the police should investigate which is extremely important in a case that could have many thousands of suspects. One such case is that of the so called 'Railway Rapist' mentioned in the film.</p>	<p>Offender profiling:</p> <p>This describes the process used to help the police catch criminals. It helps to pinpoint accurately the number of suspects that the police should investigate. This method is considered to be extremely reliable. This is very important in a case that could have many thousands of suspects. One such case is that of the so called 'Railway Rapist' mentioned in the film.</p>

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<p>Evidence collected by the police is physical and includes finger prints, DNA, photographs, that might be left at the scene of crime as well as approximate time the crime was committed etc. The forensic psychologist on the other hand is interested in the way in which a crime is committed. This will give additional clues for the police to work with. Such clues can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of victim • The type of crime • The location • The time of day or night • Specific features of the crime • What is taken or left behind 	<p>Evidence collected by the police are things such as finger prints, DNA, photographs, statistical information such as approximate ages that offenders are likely to commit crimes etc. The forensic psychologist on the other hand is interested in the way in which a crime is committed. This will give additional clues for the police to work with. Such clues can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of victim • The type of crime • The location • The time of day or night • Specific features of the crime • What is taken or left behind
<p>How is a profile created?</p> <p>Using the evidence collected by the police the profiler starts to build up a list of probable features of the criminal. The profile itself will consist of such information as the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex of the offender • His or her race • The age • Whether they might be married or not • Their intellectual ability • Any possible criminal history • Where the criminal might live 	<p>How is a profile created?</p> <p>Using the evidence from witnesses the profiler starts to build up a list of probable features of the criminal. The profile itself will consist of such information as the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex of the offender • The age • Whether or not they are likely to increase offending behaviour • Their intellectual ability • Any possible criminal history • Where the criminal might live
<p>David Canter is one of Britain's leading offender profilers. He was asked to help the police build up a profile of a man who had committed a series of sex attacks and murders. Based on the gathered evidence the police believed that it was the same man committing these crimes. Using the information from the police David Canter was able to start to build the offender profile. This evidence consisted of:</p> <p>The facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 sex attacks committed between 1982-1986 • Three murders between 1985-1986 • The type of victims were all young women • Every one of the offences were carried out in and around London often near railway stations 	<p>David Cantor is one of Britain's leading offender profilers. He was asked to help the police build up a profile of a man who had committed a series of sex attacks and murders. Based on the gathered evidence Canter believed that it was the same man committing these crimes and he was able to build up the offender profile. This evidence consisted of:</p> <p>The facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 sex attacks committed between 1982-1986 • Three murders between 1985-1986 • The type of victims were all young women with blonde hair • Every one of the offences were carried out in London near railway stations

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<p>Evidence from the scene of the murders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:3 victims were attacked near a railway station. • All the victims hands were tied • 2:3 victims were strangled, the other one was suffocated. • There had been an attempt to get rid of the bodies and/or evidence. One victim, Alison Day's pockets were filled with stones to keep her submerged in a canal. Another victim Maartje Tamboezer was partly burned. 	<p>Evidence from the scene of the murders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 3 victims were attacked near a railway station. • All the victims hands were tied with some of their clothing • 2:3 victims were suffocated, the other one was strangled. • There had been an attempt to get rid of the bodies and/or evidence. One victim; Maartje Tamboezer's pockets were filled with stones to keep her submerged in a canal. Another victim, Alison Day was partly burned.
<p>Evidence from David Canter's offender profile subsequently led to the arrest of John Duffy. Canter described 17 personality traits of which 12 were completely accurate. Some of these are listed below:</p> <p>Lived in London Was married with no children Had problems with his marriage A small built man Physically unattractive Had an interest in martial arts He was aged between 20-30 years It was later found that Duffy had an accomplice, David MulCahy although MulCahy still protests his innocence.</p>	<p>Evidence from David Canter's offender profile subsequently led to the arrest of David MulCahy. Canter described 15 personality traits of which 10 were completely accurate. Some of these are listed below:</p> <p>Lived in or around London Was married possibly with children Had problems with his marriage A small built man Physically unattractive Had an interest in train spotting He was aged between 20-30 years It was later found that MulCahy had an accomplice, John Duffy although Duffy still protests his innocence.</p>
<p>Part of the job of forensic psychologists is to develop rehabilitation programs such as anger management, social skills training to learn how to interact with others as well as treatments for addiction. The aim of treatment is to address not only the behaviour of the offender but also their psychological needs such as anxiety and depression in an endeavour to help the offender manage their own behaviour more successfully. This can be done through skills training, one-to-one and group work sessions.</p>	<p>Part of the job of forensic psychologists is to develop rehabilitation programs such as punishment regimes and physical training so prisoners can learn how to interact with others. The aim of treatment is to address the behaviour of the offender so this can be altered and enable other professionals to manage the offenders behaviour so they can become re-integrated into society. This can be done through skills training, one-to-one and group work sessions.</p>

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<p>Some methods used by forensic psychologists are listed below: Personal Construct therapy helps the individual to understand how they 'see' people. For example if a person has a personal belief or construct that 'all fathers love their children' and that person has been abused by their own father, then rather than blame their father, they may, in fact blame themselves because their belief system says that 'All father's love their children'. This may mean that they would believe that they are unworthy of love. The forensic psychologist would help the person to understand that indeed 'Not all fathers love their children' and that it might be the fault of the father, rather than the fault of the child. Therefore examining our belief system and how we 'construct' our relationships with people will hopefully lead to re-constructions and an improvement in behaviour.</p>	<p>Some methods used by forensic psychologists are listed below: Personal Reconstruction therapy helps the individual to focus on their past. If the forensic psychologist has a personal belief for example that 'all fathers love their children' and the offender says that they have been abused by their own father, and then the blame for this must lie with the offender. This means that they are unworthy of love and likely to reoffend. Once the beliefs of the offender match those of the forensic psychologist this will then hopefully lead to re-constructions and an improvement in behaviour.</p>
<p>Forensic psychologists are particularly involved with the treatment of Sex offenders. Treatment for these offenders is mandatory. Sex offending itself is very complex and there can be no simple explanation. Many factors are implicated such as early life experience and even possible biological predisposition. Therefore a combination of treatments is often given ranging from drug therapy to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). CBT usually involves weekly sessions of up to twenty sessions where the prisoner is helped to identify irrational and unhelpful thoughts and encouraged to change them. The prisoner may be involved in drawing diagrams that show a link between their thinking, their behaviour and their emotions. Some sex offenders for example are thought to misinterpret signals from women. By seeing the link between their thoughts ('she fancies me'), when in fact she is being polite or is embarrassed by the approach, and the emotion (the feeling of elation that sexual arousal brings) with the behaviour; of making inappropriate sexual advances, some success has been reported. Evidence shows that CBT is more successful for the treatment of sex offenders than drug regimes.</p>	<p>Forensic psychologists are particularly involved with the treatment of Sex offenders. Treatment for these offenders is voluntary. Sex offending itself is very complex although the majority of sex offenders have themselves been abused as children. Drugs are often given to calm the sex offender down and curb their desires. A combination of treatments is often given though, as drugs can be expensive. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) is often given and usually involves daily sessions of up to twenty sessions where the prisoner is helped to identify irrational and unhelpful thoughts and encouraged to change them. The prisoner may be involved in drawing diagrams of their victims until they feel remorse. Some sex offenders for example are thought to misinterpret signals from women. By seeing the link between their thoughts ('she fancies me'), when in fact she is being polite or is embarrassed by the approach, and the emotion (the feeling of elation that sexual arousal brings) with the behaviour; of making inappropriate sexual advances. Evidence however shows that CBT is less successful for the treatment of sex offenders than drug therapy therefore supporting the idea that sex offenders' behaviour is largely governed by their genes.</p>