

Mission Impossible

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Question: What does the following statement mean?

" ... mission (impossible) is the source of personality psychology's biggest difficulty ... " (2)

Question: What is the **basic approach** to study the pattern of psychological mechanisms? (3)

Question: What is the **trait approach** to study the pattern of psychological mechanisms?

Question: What is the **biological approach** to study the pattern of psychological mechanisms?

Question: What is the **psychoanalytic approach** to study the pattern of psychological mechanisms?

Mission Impossible (Continued)

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Question: What is the **phenomenological approach** (also called **humanistic approach**) to study the pattern of psychological mechanisms? (3)

Question: What is the **learning** (also called **behaviorism**) **approach** to study the pattern of psychological mechanisms?

Question: What is the **cognitive approach** to study the pattern of psychological mechanisms?

Competitors or Complements?

"The different approaches to personality are often portrayed as competing with each other, and for good reason."

[Illustrations] Competitive and complementary trends in personality theory.

(4-5)

Distinct Approaches vs. the One Big Theory

"Why doesn't somebody just come up with One Big Theory (an OBT) that explains everything now accounted for separately by trait, biological, psychoanalytic, humanistic, behavioral, and cognitive approaches?"

Complete the following:

"A theory that accounts for certain things extremely well will probably not do so well at explaining ... (5)

"And a theory that manages to explain almost everything—the OBT—would probably not provide the best explanation for ...

On Advantages as Disadvantages, and Vice Versa

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"In life and in psychology, advantages and disadvantages have a way of being so tightly interconnected as to be inseparable."

"Great strengths are usually great weaknesses, and surprisingly often the opposite is true as well."

Question: What is the dilemma for personality psychology if its scope is *overinclusive* (too broad)? (6-7)

Question: What is the dilemma for personality psychology if its scope is too narrow?

Pigeonholing vs. Appreciation of Individual Differences

Question: What is the "pigeonhole" criticism of personality psychology? (9)

Question: How can the "pigeonhole" criticism of personality psychology be taken as an example of a potential disadvantage working to an advantage? (9-10)

END

