

# **Psychoanalysis Theory**

**Psychoanalysis** is a system of psychology derived from the discoveries of Sigmund Freud. Originating as a method for treating certain psychoneurotic disorders, psychoanalysis has come to serve as the foundation for a general theory of psychology. Psychoanalysis is defined as human nature seen from the vantage point of conflict. Therefore, psychoanalysis views the functioning of the mind as an expression of conflicting forces. Some of these forces are conscious; others, perhaps the major ones, are unconscious. As a system of psychology and as a method of therapy, psychoanalysis emphasizes the importance of unconscious forces in mental life.

Some of these forces are conscious; others, perhaps the major ones, are unconscious. As a system of psychology and as a method of therapy, psychoanalysis emphasizes the importance of unconscious forces in mental life. Conflict is an inexorable dimension of the human condition. It reflects the contradiction inherent in man's dual nature as a biological animal and a social being. In a few short years, each human infant has to be civilized and acculturated; he has to incorporate and integrate the ideals and values, the inhibitions and the taboos, of his particular society.

# Sigmund Freud's Psychosexual Stages

Stage	Age range	What happens at this stage?
Oral Stage	0-1 year old	Children derive pleasure from oral activities, in- cluding sucking and tasting. They like to put things in their mouth.
Anal Stage	2-3 years old	Children begin potty training.
Phallic Stage	3-6 years old	Boys are more attached to their mother, while girls are more attached to their father.
Latency Stage	6 years old to puberty	Children spend more time and interact mostly with same sex peers.
Genital Stage	Beyond puberty	Individuals are attracted to opposite sex peers.

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#### CONSCIOUS LEVEL

#### Superego

#### PRECONSCIOUS LEVEL

Ideals and morals; striving for perfection; incorporated from parents; becoming a person's conscience. Operates mostly at preconscious level.

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## UNCONSCIOUS LEVEL

Basic impulses (sex and aggression); seeking immediate gratification; irrational and impulsive. Operates at unconscious level.

#### Ego

Executive mediating between id impulses and superego inhibitions; testing reality; rational. Operates mainly at conscious level but also at preconscious level.