

# Criticisms of Bowlby's Maternal Deprivation Research



**This activity will help you to:**

- Identify and explain criticisms of Bowlby's (1944; 1946) study of maternal deprivation
- Elaborate on criticisms to achieve more effective AO2 commentary and evaluation

Each feature of Bowlby's study listed highlights a potential criticism. Explain the criticism and then explain how it might have affected the results of the study.

Feature	Why is this a problem?	How might it have affected the outcome of the study?
The data were based on recollections of events from many years previously.		
Bowlby made the diagnosis of 'affectionless psychopathy' himself.		
Some of the 'significant' periods of separation were very short.		