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**Ann Birch
and
Sheila Hayward**

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Preface

The aims of this book are to highlight some of the ways in which psychologists have investigated differences between individuals and to critically examine some of their more significant findings. It focuses on three important areas of psychological functioning: intelligence, personality and abnormal behaviour.

Chapter 1 critically examines definitions of intelligence, the measurement of intelligence and the controversial nature/nurture debate. Different theoretical approaches to the study of personality are explored in Chapters 2 and 3, along with some ways in which personality can be assessed. Chapters 4 to 6 concentrate on abnormal behaviour and include a critical examination of the problems which arise when attempts are made to distinguish 'abnormal' from 'normal' behaviour, some of the characteristics and possible causes of various mental disorders, and a range of different therapies used to treat them.

In line with previous books in the series, the authors have attempted to present the text concisely in the form of comprehensive notes which are suitable either as an introduction to this area of psychology or as a revision text.

For the independent student, each chapter is prefaced with objectives to be met during the study of the chapter and each section ends with some self-assessment questions so that readers may test their understanding of the section.

The reader is advised to work through the text a section at a time and to consider the self-assessment questions following each section. The self-assessment questions should then be re-examined after further reading has been undertaken.

While the books in the series are aimed primarily at those who are studying psychology at 'A' level or GCSE, they should also prove useful for students encountering psychology for the first time at degree level or on nursing and BTEC courses.

We are confident that this book will prove as useful and popular as have the previous ones in the series. We very much hope you will enjoy it.

*Ann Birch
Sheila Hayward*

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THEY'RE IDENTICAL TWINS, AREN'T THEY ? WE'D
BETTER HAVE THEM REARED APART .