

# Judging Psychopathy

Which of the following example scenarios would you consider to exhibit psychopathic behaviour?

1) A very intelligent and respected doctor secretly murders and dismembers individuals he meets during his consulting rounds. He stores their body parts in his 'fridge, and sometimes eats them (with some fava beans and a good chianti).

2) Two children, aged 14 and 15, plan the murder of one of their school acquaintances. They make a random selection, lure their 'friend' to a park, and kill her there without warning.

3) An individual German, living next to a Jewish community, watches impassively as her neighbours are packed into trucks for 'evacuation to the East'. She understands what the euphemism means. She later is awarded one of the vacant houses and moves in, much to the excitement of her family.

4) A young unemployed man is recruited into the elite SS. He joins the 'Totenkopf' units, and finds himself posted to Poland as part of an 'Einsatzgruppen'. There he is posted to Babi Yar, where he witnesses and takes part in the shooting of over 33,000 Jewish men, women, and children. After the war ends he is tried at Nuremberg, but pleads that he was "*only following orders*".

5) A well-to-do elderly lady is caught shoplifting in Sainsburys. On investigation, it is found that she is a persistent offender, with a long history of compulsive thefts.

6) A child constantly lies when at home (and at school) about the most trivial of things. When caught out, he denies he's done any wrong. He has also been bullying other children, and stealing their belongings. He considers this 'funny' and when questioned says those he harmed were just fools who should know better. He has very impulsive tendencies, and sometimes takes money from his mother's purse to buy toys, which he discards shortly afterwards.