

A Level Psychology Introduction Summer Project 2024



This research based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for your A Level Psychology course.

Research and complete the tasks independently over the summer to get a head start and prepare for the key topics within A Level Psychology.

Present the tasks in any format you like and bring it with you to your first lesson after the summer. **You will be expected to complete an assessment on the topics covered in this booklet.**

Ms Begum (Head of Psychology)
Davenant Foundation School



The AQA Course

A-Level

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

What's assessed

Compulsory content 1–4 above

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks

Topics:

Memory
Social Influence
Attachment
Psychopathology

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

What's assessed

Compulsory content 5–7 above

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

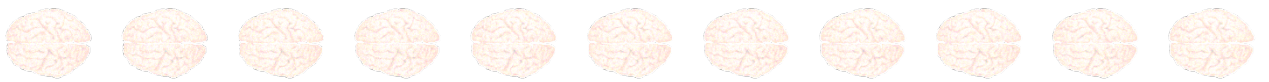
Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 48 marks

Topics:

Approaches in
Psychology
Biopsychology
Research Methods





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Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

What's assessed

Compulsory content 8 above

Optional content, one from option 1, 9–11, one from option 2, 12–14, one from option 3, 15–17 above

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Topics:

Issues and debates

Schizophrenia

Relationships

Forensic Psychology

100% Exam based

0% Course work





Task 1, Topic 1: Marvellous Memory...

Mini Experiment:

In this experiment you can test as many or as little people as you like. As the experimenter you should read out one line at a time of the triangle of numbers below to your participant. When you have finished reading out the line, your participant should recite back to you as many of the numbers they can remember. Record how many numbers they recall correctly on each line.

6
27 35
10 28 22
38 46 10 11
52 8 19 81 17
55 38 29 13 8 71
75 17 20 61 82 5 12
61 38 17 40 49 84 57 8
71 22 31 89 47 5 1 16 94
18 95 48 30 89 67 18 11 15 17
76 83 40 28 25 12 15 53 95 49 20
16 9 11 17 49 50 28 69 24 53 78 10
77 53 49 76 19 94 87 64 23 19 15 51 2
78 56 34 19 27 20 80 42 38 64 29 10 79 31

Now think about and explain:

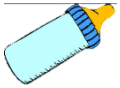
- 1) What was the maximum amount of numbers your participants can recall from any line? (If you used more than one participant, take the average).
- 2) What do your results suggest about memory?

Now research and answer the following...

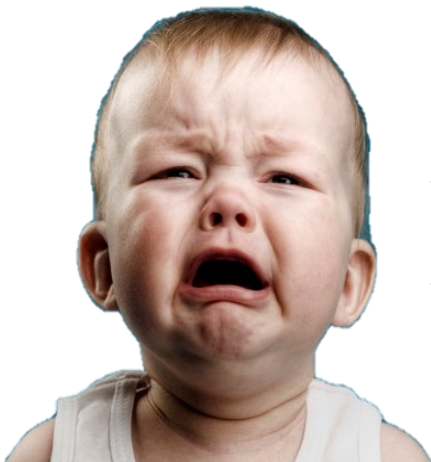
- 1) What is memory? Does it have different types? If so, explain them...
- 2) What is the capacity and duration of the average memory in humans?
- 3) What did George Miller do in 1956? What did he discover about memory? How does this link to the results from your experiment above?



Task 2, Topic 2: Attachment



Babies, Babies, Babies...



Research and answer the following:

From a Psychological Perspective...

Why do babies cry all of the time?

Why are all babies born with blue eyes?

Useful Link: http://www.babycenter.com/2_creating-an-attachment-with-your-baby_10350318.bc

“Oh, oobee doo I wanna be like you...”



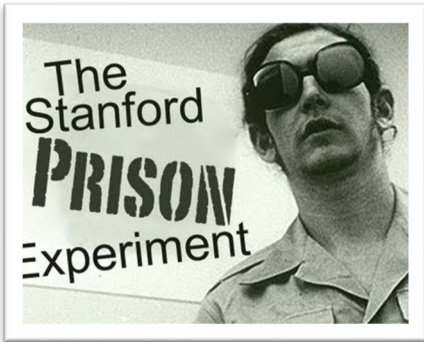
Consider, research and answer the following:

From a Psychological point of view, why should Mobley not survive in the Jungle?

Hint: Try to link to the psychologist John Bowlby in your answer...

Task 3, Topic 3: Social Influence

Obedience, Obey, Conform...



Research and produce a fact sheet on two key studies:

- 1) Milgram's (1963) Obedience to Authority
- 2) Zimbardo's Stanford Prison Experiment

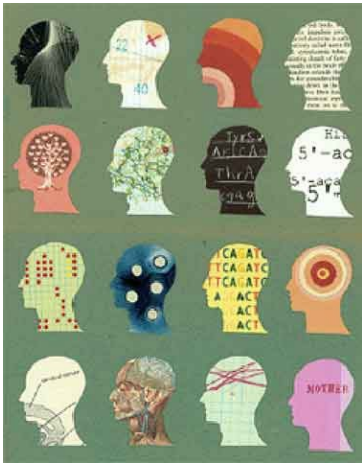
Taking it further...



Explain how research such as Milgram & Zimbardo, might explain historical atrocities such as the Nazi persecution of the Jews...

Task 4, Topic 4: Psychopathology...

What is normal?



Consider, research and explain...

- 1) Is there such a thing as normal and abnormal? What are the definitions of these?
- 2) How do Psychologists decide what is abnormal?

Fear. Sadness. Obsession.



Produce a fact file on each of the following mental disorders. Include **symptoms**, potential **causes** and **treatments**.

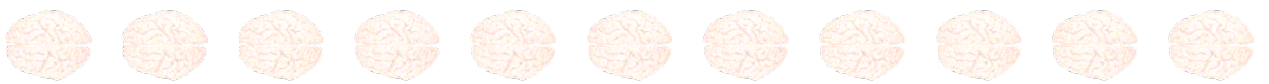
- 1) Phobias
- 2) Depression
- 3) OCD

Task 5, Topic 5: Approaches to Psych...

The Famous Five

There are five main Psychological approaches or perspectives. Research them and explain the key terms, assumptions and psychologists which fit into each one.





Useful Resources & Further Reading

To help you on your way...

Websites:

- **Youtube** have a number of really good factual clips. In particular 'Crash Course' have produced a number of introductory videos to key elements in Psychology.
- <http://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html> - Tailored to the old specification, but has all the relevant key information for A Level Psychology.
- <http://www.psychteacher.co.uk> - Tailored to the old specification but contains key information for A Level Psychology.
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>
- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/psychology-revision/a-level-aqa>

Books:

- ***Working Memory, Thought and Action*** – Alan Baddeley
 - ***The Lucifer Effect*** – Phillip Zimbardo
 - ***Obedience to Authority*** – Stanley Milgram
 - ***Fundamentals of Cognition*** – Michael Eysenck
 - ***Psychology: The Science of the Mind and Behaviour*** – Richard Gross
 - ***The Complete Companions: AQA Psychology Year 1 and AS Student Book*** – Mike Cardwell & Cara Flanagan
 - ***AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS Student Book*** – Cara Flanagan & Dave Berry
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