

A Level Psychology Introduction Summer Project



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 AS (Year one A Level) Psychology.

Present the tasks in any format you like and bring it with you to your first lesson after the summer.

Good luck and Enjoy ☺



The AQA Course

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:

Social Influence
Memory
Attachment
Clinical Psychology and
Mental Health

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:

Research Methods
Approaches in
Psychology
Biopsychology

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

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- Section B: one topic from option 1, 9–11 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- Section C: one topic from option 2, 12–14 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- Section D: one topic from option 3, 15–17 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks

Topics:

Issues and Debates
Relationships
Schizophrenia
Aggression

100% Exam (THREE papers), 0% Coursework





Task 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:

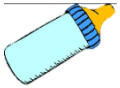
- 1) What was the maximum amount of numbers your participants can recall from any line? (If you used more than one participant, take the average).
- 2) What do your results suggest about memory?

Now research and answer the following...

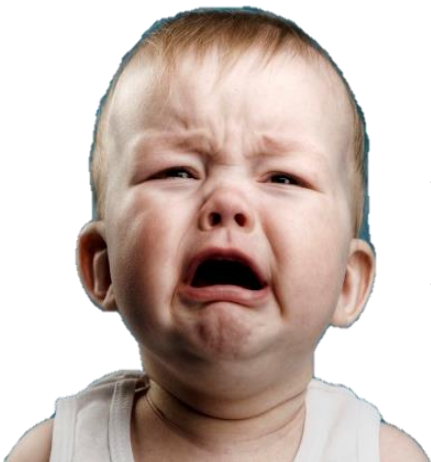
- 1) What is memory? Does it have different types? If so, explain them...
- 2) What is the capacity and duration of the average memory in humans?
- 3) What did George Miller do in 1956? What did he discover about memory? How does this link to the results from your experiment above?



Task 2: 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: Social Influence

Obedience, Obey, Conform...



Research and produce a fact sheet on two key studies:

- 1) Milgram's (1963) Obedience to Authority
- 2) Asch's (1951) Research into Conformity

Taking it further...



Choose one real-life example (from news, history, or your own experience) where social influence played a significant role.

Write a paragraph (approx. 150 words) to help explain the behaviour or outcome in this situation.

Task 4: Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

What is normal?

Create a Mind Map of Key Characteristics

Using a large sheet of paper or digital tool (e.g., MindMeister, Canva), create a mind map that covers:

The behavioural, emotional, and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression, and OCD.

Use different colours or symbols to highlight:

Behavioural vs emotional vs cognitive features of disorders.

Add at least one simple real-life example or scenario for each definition and disorder to demonstrate understanding.



Task 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.

Books:

- ***Working Memory, Thought and Action*** – Alan Baddeley
- ***Obedience to Authority*** – Stanley Milgram
- ***Fundamentals of Cognition*** – Michael Eysenck
- ***Psychology: The Science of the Mind and Behaviour*** – Richard Gross

