

A Level Psychology Transition Pack



Glossary, Approaches to Psychology and Research Methods

Introduction

You are required to complete the tasks detailed in this handout, and to produce your own topic booklet. Your knowledge and understanding of this work will be assessed during the first week of the A Level Psychology course.

1. As with all topics in Psychology you will be required to know names and concepts and to show that you have a good understanding of them. In addition, each of the various Psychological perspectives has its own views on the way that people behave, and the reasons for this.
2. You are required to produce a booklet using a range of resources. The booklet will contain a list of concepts as well as definitions, brief outlines on perspectives and demonstrate an awareness of research problems. In short, you will complete a very useful reference aid for later on.
3. Attached is a list of tasks to complete.
4. Completed projects will be due for submission in the first lesson of the first week of term. NO EXTENSIONS. You will be assessed on the quality of written communication and comprehension of your chosen topic.
5. Finally - this is a detailed and comprehensive assignment. Don't rush it. Break it down into small management tasks and PLAN how you are going to spend your time over the coming weeks. This will provide you with the opportunity to develop excellent study skills in preparation for your AS studies in September.

Completed properly, they should give you a huge advantage at the beginning of Year 12 in terms of your knowledge and understanding. Don't forget, this will take a lot of pressure away from you when you start Year 12 in September.

TASK 1

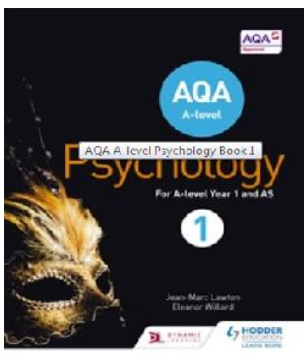
Over the summer holidays we would like you to research the origins of psychology and the 3 approaches of psychology:

1. What are the origins of psychology? - Who is Wilhelm Wundt, what is meant by introspection and the emergence of science?
2. The biological approach to psychology - define genotypes and phenotypes, neurotransmitters, hormones.
3. The behavioural approach to psychology—define classical and operant conditioning, social learning theory.
4. The cognitive approach to psychology—define schemas, cognitive neuroscience, and the role of the theoretical and computer models.

You could write about research studies from each area listed above, e.g. classical conditioning—research has been conducted by Pavlov.

All work should be referenced. There is a good selection of resources in the school libraries. The textbook that we shall be using for the course is:

"Psychology For A-level Year 1 and AS", 2015, Jean-Marc Lawton, Eleanor Willard, *Hodder Education*



TASK 2 – Knowledge of Key Terms

Complete the Glossary of terms using textbooks and the internet. This simply means writing down a definition of the term given. If you can, give an example (although this is optional). Remember, this is a reference document to be used later, so make it count. Use your initiative!! You need to ensure your definition is in a psychological context.

TERMS

Anxiety	Ecological validity	Phobia
Attachment theories	Ethics	Positive reinforcement
Behaviourism	Ethnocentrism	Psychoanalytic/dynamic theory
Bias	Experiment	Random sampling
Cognitive Psychology	Free-will	Reductionism
Confederate	Hypothesis	Reliability
Conformity	Imitation	Repeated measures
Confounding variable	Independent measures	Retroactive interference
Consent	Independent variable	Sampling
Control group	Innate	Self-report
Correlation	Interview	Self-selected sample
Counterbalancing	Longitudinal study	Social learning theory
Critical period	Mundane Realism	Stimulus
Cross-cultural research	Matched pairs	Stratified sample
Cross-sectional study	Nature	Systematic desensitisation
Debrief	Nurture	Systematic Sampling
Demand characteristics	Observation	Survey
Dependent variable	OCD	Variable
Determinism	Operant conditioning	Validity
Discrimination	Opportunity sampling	Working Memory Model
Disposition`	Order effects	

Once you have completed this task you will have your own ready-made psychological dictionary of key terms, and an excellent learning and revision aid.

TASK 3 – Research Methods

As part of the course specification you should develop a knowledge and understanding of practical research skills and mathematical skills. These skills should be developed through study of the specification content and through ethical practical research activities, involving:

- designing research
- conducting research
- analysing and interpreting data

Following on from the Induction day your 3rd task is to design, carry out and write up a practical project to investigate one of the research questions below:

- Do men forget more than women?
- Are the stereotypes of men remembering facts, such as football scores, better than women true?
- Do women remember emotional events better than men?
- Is it easier to remember items that are organised or grouped together?
- Do some people have a better memory for material presented as pictures rather than words?

Your project must collect quantitative data from an independent measures design experiment with 2 conditions. Your written report must include the following headings:

1. Introduction, Aim – what are you investigating?
2. Hypotheses – What differences do you expect to find between the conditions?
3. Sample – Who took part in your data collection?
4. Procedure – How did you carry out your experiment –Step 1, Step 2...?
5. Results – the numbers! What did you find out? Include some graphs!
6. Discussion & Conclusion – what do the results tell you about memory?

You must bring 2 copies of your practical project write-up to the first lesson; one for teacher assessment and the other to use in the first lesson topic.

Good luck – and have fun!!!