



The Thomas Hardy School
Summer Preparation Task
Psychology A Level

Purpose of task:

To understand the different approaches used in Psychology.
To be able to describe some of the key ways research methods.
To have an understanding of the importance of ethics when using people in scientific experiments.

Task:

See booklet attached.

Recommended resources:

<http://www.psychology4a.com/>

<http://www.bps.org.uk/>

The Complete Companions: AQA
Psychology Year 1 and AS Student
Book (Fourth Edition) (Complete
Companion Psychology)

Additional Information:

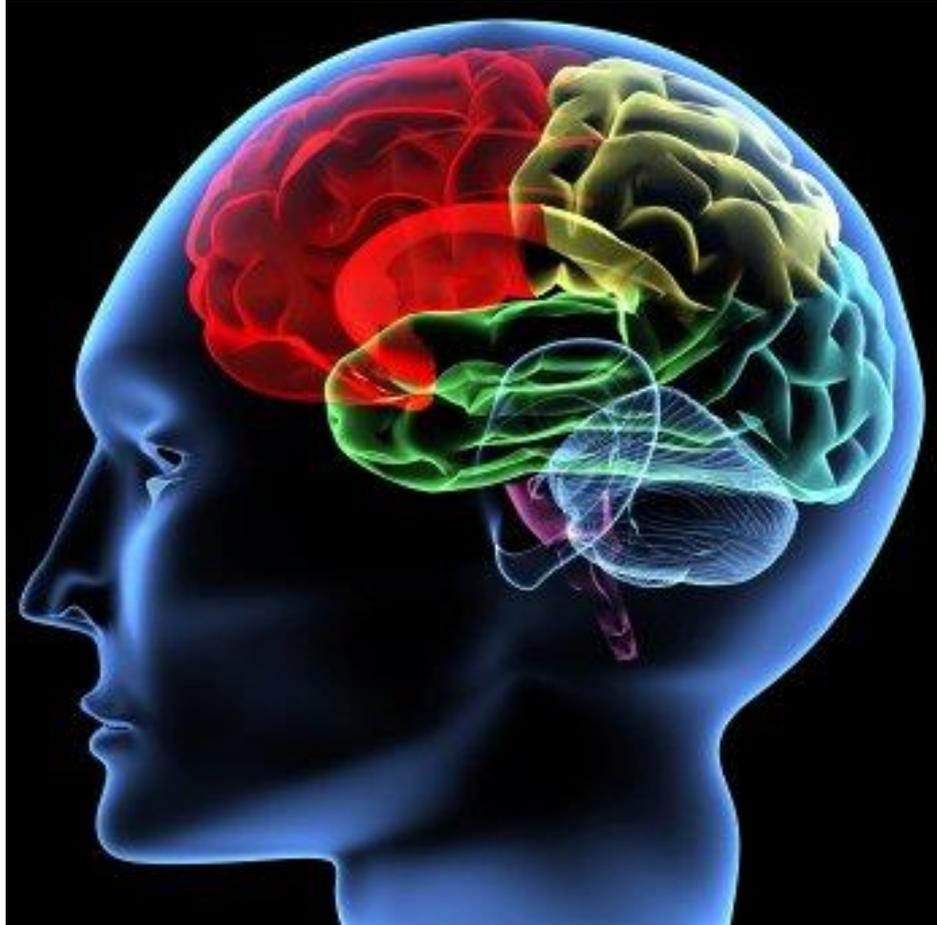
Recommended reading & activities list:

The Lucifer effect Philip Zimbardo
The man who mistook his wife for a hat Oliver Sacks
Opening Skinner's Box Lauren Slater
How the mind works Steven Pinker

Deadline for Task: First lesson in week commencing 11th September 2017

SUMMER TASKS

In Preparation for AS Psychology 2015



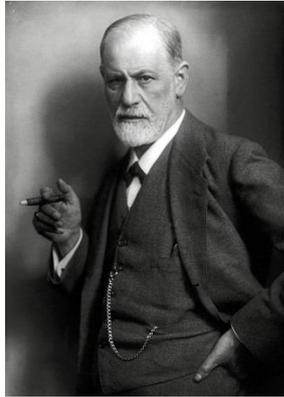
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Introduction

About this booklet:

Congratulations for opting to study Psychology; we hope you will enjoy this fascinating subject. Some of your previous knowledge from your studies of maths and science will be useful as you progress through the course. However, there will be a lot of new information which you will need to absorb quickly if you are to make satisfactory progress during the academic year. We have put this booklet together to prepare you for AS psychology. You will need to bring it along to your first lesson. Please complete the booklet to the best of your ability, as it will prepare you for study in year 12 and therefore increase your confidence. Give yourself the best start possible to Year 12 by working through the tasks.



Sigmund Freud

What is Psychology?

Find a definition of Psychology:

Psychology is not very useful unless it is *applied*. This means that there is a practical element to psychology, in that the theories and findings from psychology can be used to influence how schools, prisons, hospitals etc. should best cater for the people they look after. Psychology gives us tools to help improve people's lives. This could be through helping people improve memory or treating phobias.

Write two things that you know about Psychology and two things that you would like to find out:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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Approaches in Psychology

When we discuss religion, we are aware that we are not just talking about one religion, but many. Some religions agree with each other, some disagree and some co-exist without agreeing or disagreeing. Use this model to help you understand the study of psychology. Think of psychology approaches as a collection of different beliefs or approaches about how the mind works. Some psychological approaches agree with each other, some disagree and some co-exist. Unlike religion, psychology is a science.

We will study each of the following areas of Psychology – find out 3 key points to describe each one.

1. Behavioural Psychology/ Behaviourism
2. Social Psychology
3. Cognitive Psychology
4. Developmental Psychology
5. Biological Psychology

Stretch yourself!

Match the examples with the correct psychological approach:

1. *Behavioural Psychology*
2. *Social Psychology*
3. *Cognitive Psychology*
4. *Developmental Psychology*
5. *Biological Psychology*

Some psychologists want to find out whether children who are aggressive have learnt to behave in this way by copying a role model.

Some psychologists want to examine how our behaviour is affected by physical changes, such as the stress response, 'Fight or Flight'

Some psychologists want to find out if teenage smoking is linked to peer-group pressure.

Some psychologists try to think of ways in which we can all improve our memories.

Some of the above approaches believe that we are born with certain behaviours, that it is innate; others believe that it is our environment that influences our behaviour, nurture. Plot each of the approaches on the nature-nurture spectrum below:

Nature

Nurture

There are different types of research methods that psychologists use to understand the mind. Research the definition for each of these methods.

Experiment

Observation Study

Case Study

Correlation study

Questionnaire

Ethics in Psychology

It is vital that you understand the importance of ethical awareness when conducting psychological research. Since we are trying to understand better how humans think, feel and behave, researchers will of course be working with people. Gone are the days when psychological researchers could just experiment on people without their permission or without properly informing them. To ensure that participants are protected, we have the British Psychological Society, which is a body that regulates and over-views psychological investigations and clinical practice in the UK.

Visit the BPS website and find out more about their ethical codes which are in place to protect participants and patients.

<http://www.bps.org.uk/what-we-do/ethics-standards/ethics-standards>

Another website which summarises the ethical guidelines can be found here:

<http://www.holah.co.uk/page/ethics/>

Read about the ethical guidelines and then answer the following questions.

1. What is meant by informed consent?
2. What is meant by the right to withdraw?
3. What is meant by deception? Why might this be an issue for psychologists?
4. What is meant by debriefing?
5. What is meant by confidentiality?