A-Level Psychology Bridging work

**Welcome to the Psychology department.**

The majority of you will not have studied psychology before. It’s a fascinating subject which impacts every part of our lives. This booklet aims to give you an introduction that will let you see the kind of topics that psychologists study and some of the techniques they use. I hope it gives you a taste for all the excitement and interesting topics to come in your Psychology A-Level!

You are expected to complete all of this booklet. Please add yourself to the Year 11 Google Classroom where you will be able to easy access the links that have been provided. You can also type the work if you prefer (although hand written is just fine)

Specification link:

Edexcel specification



Contact:

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 https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/psychology-2015.html

 What will you study?

Paper 1

**Foundations in**

**Psychology**

4 areas

Social

Cognitive

Biological

Learning

One exam

2 hours

35% of

qualification

Paper 2

**Applications of**

**Psychology**

Two areas

Clinical

Psychology

Criminological

One exam

2 hours

35% of

qualification

Paper 3

**Psychological Skills** Three areas

Methods

Synoptic

review of

studies

Issues and

debates

One exam

2 hours

30% of

qualification

Psychology bridging work Google Classroom 

Please add yourself to the Year 11 to 12 Google Classroom

Code: g5ftvqk

 Recommended resources

**Things to read**

Below is the link to a number of magazine articles which looks at recent research on all topic areas in psychology.

https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/magazines-extras/psychology-review-extras

The Psychopathy Test by Jon Ronson. Jon Ronson is a journalist who investigates the nature of a psychopath. He questions the validity of testing them and suggests there may be many psychopaths in society who are functioning and non-criminal.

Opening Skinner’s Box by Lauren Slater. Brilliant short summaries of some of the most famous psychological studies. Some of which we study in our course.

 **Things to watch**

Three Identical Strangers Available on 4OD and Netflix. A documentary based on Triplets who were separated at birth. Relates to the nature nurture debate.

The Stanford prison experiment A film

depicting the famous prison study that we’ll learn about in our first topic in social psychology. The Experiment A film depicting the famous psychologist Stanley Milgram that we’ll learn about in our first topic in social psychology. One flew over the cuckoo’s nest Useful for

psychopathology and definitions of abnormality. Beautiful mind Useful for psychopathology and schizophrenia topics.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p082bxzn/stacey dooley-on-the-psych-ward

Zimbardo Ted Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/philip\_zimbardo\_the\_psychology \_of\_evil?language=en Great to get you thinking about “what is evil?” for our social psychology topic.

***Introduction to Psychology You tube videos:*** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M&list=PLNo419 yvwUDDuGEekLWgdlJPUA3WOV

 **Things to listen to**

BBC4s “I hear voices” BBC Sounds – ‘I hear voices’ about a woman’s experience of schizophrenia

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05q 82d8

BBC4s All in the mind series All in the mind – the impact of psychological research on our lives

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03h vx74 BBC4s All in the mind series All in the mind - how attitudes to mental health have changed over the last 25 years

Tasks to complete

Task 1 What is psychology?

Ask three people have not studied psychology what psychology is? Record their responses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Using the links below provide a detailed answer to what the study of psychology involves? https://www.bps.org.uk/public/what-is-psychology

Research the following careers in psychology summarising each one in around 150 words

● Clinical psychologist

● Forensic psychologist

● Health psychologist

https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/forensic-psychologist/

https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/clinical-psychologist

https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/health-psychologist

*What does the study of psychology involve?*

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***Roles of a clinical, forensic and health psychologist?***

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Task 2 Introduction to Psychology

Watch the TED talk and choose 3 myths to describe and explain how they have been debunked

https://www.ted.com/talks/ben\_ambridge\_10\_myths\_about\_psychology\_debunked/transcript?language= en#t-388796

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Task 3 Topics of study

Using the link below research and take notes on 5 different areas that you find interesting https://www.bps.org.uk/public/a-z-of-psychology

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Task 4 Ethics in Psychology

What are ethics and why do we study them in Psychology? In Britain, ethical guidelines for research are published by the British Psychological Society (BPS). The purpose of these codes of conduct is to protect the participants of the research, the reputation of psychology and psychologists themselves. In Psychology you will learn about six different ethical guidelines. These are things that Psychologists should follow when conducting studies. 

The six guidelines are as follows:

1. Protection from Harm

2. Right to Withdraw

3. Confidentiality

4. Informed Consent

5. Debriefing

6. Deception

Watch the following video to gain a brief understanding of why ethics are important. There are other resources too. Complete the table defining the 6 ethical guidelines.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpZHkr9\_8Gc

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Guideline**  | **Description** |
| Informed consent |  |
| Right to withdraw |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Confidentiality |  |
| Protection from harm |  |
| Debrief |  |
| Deception |  |

Task 5 Unethical studies in psychology

Some of the most fascinating and useful studies in psychology are the most unethical. Research 3 unethical studies. Give details about the study and give reasons about why they are unethical?

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Task 6 Studies in psychology

 Study: Dr Money, the case of David Reimer. The boy who became a girl.

In psychology we look at a range of different studies to investigate behaviours. This study investigates the case of David Reimer. David was born male and given the name Bruce. However, due to a tragic accident David was brought up as a girl. Watch the documentary on this case and answer the questions below. 

1. Was his study ethical? Why / why not? Use your knowledge from your task in Activity number 4 to answer this question

2. How does this study support the argument that nurture cannot overturn nature. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LQBcAVghu4&t=279s

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Task 7 Theories in psychology

We will study four different schools of psychology in Year 12. Behaviour is explained differently by psychologists from each approach. For example - are you born with a personality or are personalities a product of our environment

● Social psychology

● Cognitive psychology

● Biological psychology

● Learning Theories/Behaviour Approach

Cognitive psychology

Cognitive psychology involves the study of internal mental processes—all of the things that go on inside your brain, including perception, thinking, memory, attention, language, problem-solving, and learning.

The assumption of cognitive psychology is that the mind operates in a similar way to how a computer processes information. This processing takes place in the form of thoughts, and uses cognitive ‘models’.

There are numerous practical applications for this cognitive research, such as providing help coping with memory disorders, increasing decision-making accuracy, finding ways to help people recover from brain injury, treating learning disorders, and structuring educational curricula to enhance learning.

Learning more about how people think and process information not only helps researchers gain a deeper understanding of how the human brain works, but it allows psychologists to develop new ways of helping people deal with psychological difficulties.

For example, by recognizing that attention is both a selective and limited resource, psychologists are able to come up with solutions that make it easier for people with attentional difficulties to improve their focus and concentration.

Findings from cognitive psychology have also improved our understanding of how people form, store, and recall memories. By knowing more about how these processes work, psychologists can develop new ways of helping people improve their memories and combat potential memory problems.

For example, psychologists have found that while your short-term memory is quite short and limited (lasting just 20 to 30 seconds and capable of holding between five and nine items), rehearsal strategies can improve the chances that information will be transferred to long-term memory, which is much more stable and durable.

The multi-store model of memory



Using this website answer the following questions

https://www.simplypsychology.org/multi-store.html

1. What are the three main stores in the multi-store model of memory?

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2. What are the three ways in which we encode information?

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3. What is the capacity of STM?

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4. What is the duration of STM?

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5. Explain two strengths of the multi-store model of memory

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6. Explain two weaknesses of the multi-store model of memory

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***Memory in the real world***

Using the link below, describe why is our memory sometimes unreliable?

https://www.psychologywizard.net/multi-store-model-ao1-ao2-ao3.html

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Task 8 Biological psychology

Research the work of biological psychology. What are the areas of study? What behaviours are they interested in? What research methods do they use?

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Task 9 Debates in Psychology

In psychology there are lots of debates, one of the biggest and most controversial is whether psychology is a science. Most people assume Psychology is an easy or ‘soft’ subject which cannot possibly be a science. But is it?

**It is your job to come to a conclusion as to whether or not Psychology IS a hard science. Research arguments for and against Psychology as a Science and produce a debate on this.**

Consider:

1) The Subject Content

2) Research Methods Used

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence for psychology is a science**  | **Evidence for psychology not being a science** |
|  |  |

Task 10 Methodology – Can you handle the data?

Answer the exam questions below



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