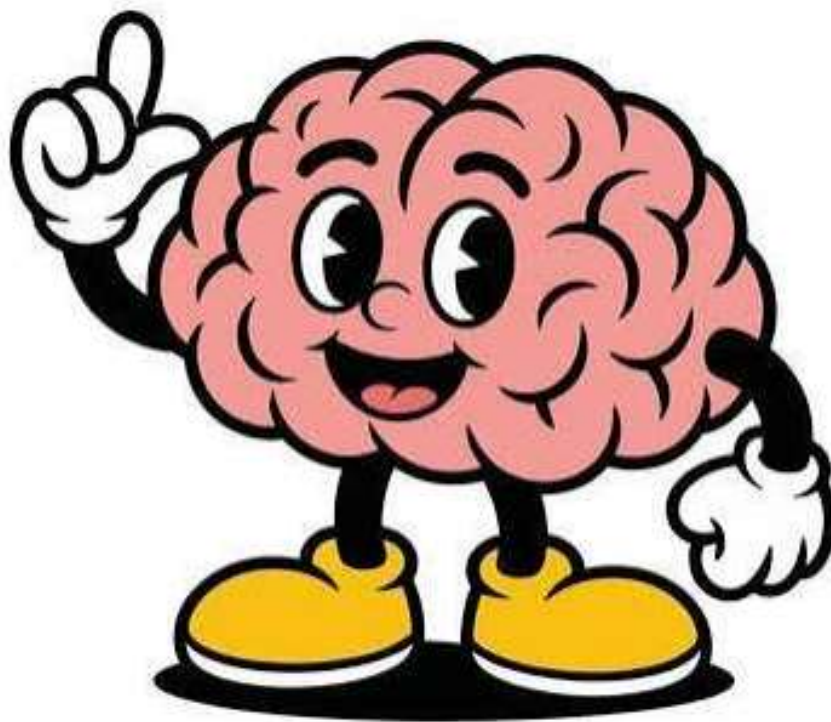




A-level Psychology Introduction Summer Project 2026



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 Year 12.

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



Good luck and Enjoy ☺

Miss Smith





The AQA Course

100% Exam (three papers) 0% Coursework

Paper 1 – Introductory topics in Psychology

Topics:

Social Influence
Memory
Attachment
Clinical Psychology

Paper 2 – Psychology in Context

Topics:

Approaches
Biopsychology
Research Methods

Paper 3 – Issues and options in Psychology

Topics:

Approaches
Biopsychology
Research Methods

Watch & listen:

Scan the QR code and watch the following video. This will give you a really good understanding of what you will be assessed on at the end of Psychology.





Task 1, Topic 1: Marvellous Memory...

Mini Experiment:

In this experiment you can test as many or as few 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 most amount of numbers your participants could 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...

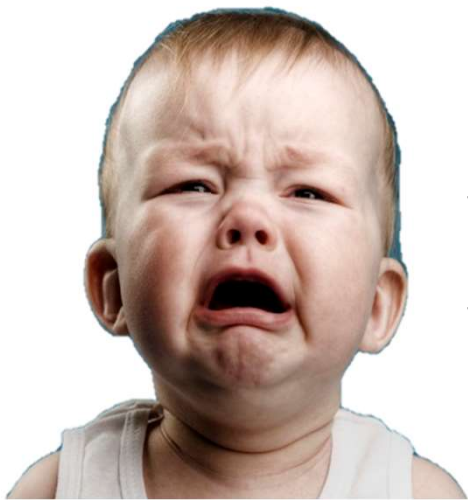
- 1) What is memory? Does it have different types? If so, explain them...
- 2) What is the capacity and duration of the average memory in humans?
- 3) What did George Miller do in 1956? What did he discover about memory? How does this link to the results from your experiment above?



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...”



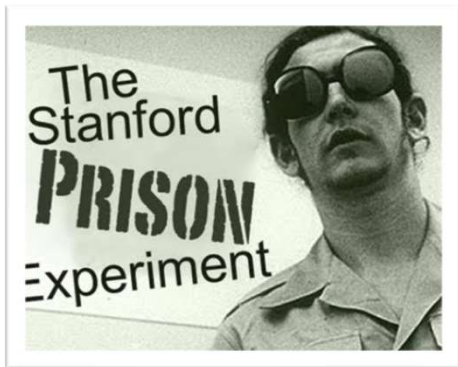
Consider, research and answer the following:

From a Psychological point of view, why should Mowgli 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 study on Obedience to Authority
- 2) Asch's study on Conformity

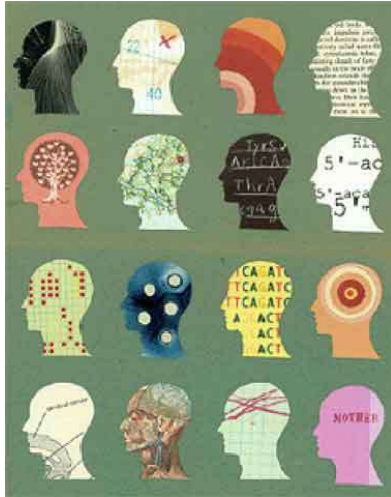
Taking it further...



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

Task 4, Topic 4: Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

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: Research Methods

In Psychology, we need to be able to do a little bit of maths – but this is all stuff you should know from GCSE!

Measures of central tendency

Make a cheat sheet on how to work out the following:

- ✓ Mean
- ✓ Median
- ✓ Mode
- ✓ Range



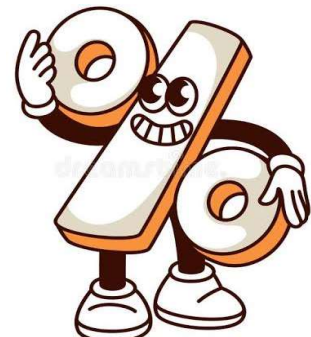
Mean, mode
and median

Measures of
central tendency

Percentages

Make a cheat sheet on how to work out the following:

- ✓ Work out an overall percentage
- ✓ Percentage increase
- ✓ Percentage decrease





Useful Resources & Further Reading

To help you on your way...

Websites:

- **BEAR it in mind** – A really good website and YouTube channel that goes through most topics in Psychology
- **Tutor2u** – Contains lots of free resources and videos on topics within Psychology

Equipment list:

Please make sure you have all of this equipment ready for our first lesson!

- A4 Ring binder folder
- Plastic wallets
- File organisers
- Pencil case including:
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, rubber, pencil sharpener, ruler, calculator, glue stick

Extra reading:

- **Working Memory, Thought and Action** – Alan Baddeley
- **The Lucifer Effect** – Phillip Zimbardo
- **Obedience to Authority** – Stanley Milgram

Go one step further:

The QR code is a fantastic FREE course that introduces you to the world of Forensic Psychology. It even gives you a certificate at the end!

