

PSYCHOLOGY

TRANSITION RESOURCES

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Psychology Transition Tasks for Yr11

As the majority of you will have never studied Psychology before, a number of introductory tasks have been created to give you a taste of all of the topics covered in Yr12 Psychology. You are to complete these each week and keep hold of any notes you make or work you do as it will come in handy for your A Level studies over the next two years.

Try your best and enjoy learning about a relevant and exciting new subject! 😊

Ongoing Task - Psychology is a subject that relates to real life!

Keep a scrapbook (digital or paper) of articles in the news that are linked to how people behave, how they think, what motivates them etc. Annotate each article with a summary of the main points and create a glossary of terms that are new to you. You should find at least one article per week.

Use the following sources:

- www.bbc.co.uk
- www.thetimes.co.uk
- www.theguardian.com
- www.independent.co.uk
- Searches in the science, health, family and business sections may be useful or use the search box and enter 'psychology'. I recently found an article on 'The Psychology of Panic Buying'!

Task 1 – To get you started...

To begin with, although you have not studied Psychology before, you could prepare for the A level by:

- Reviewing your lessons and notes from Biology on the nervous system as this is relevant to Psychology.
- Making sure your maths skills are up to speed (particularly % increase and % decrease, mean, median, mode and range, ratios and probability, all charts and graphs and scattergrams). You will need all these.

Task 2 – Approaches

There are core approaches to Psychology that you need to know for your A level – they are different ways of explaining human behaviours. Some of these are listed below: your job is to do some research on them using the internet (There are plenty of great videos on YouTube you can watch to help with this!).

You should find out: How does the approach explain human behaviour? Identify one key researcher from this area – and why are they famous? Summarise any famous experiments.

The Behaviourist Approach

The Social Learning Theory Approach

The Cognitive Approach

The Biological Approach

Optional extension: The Psychodynamic Approach & Humanistic Approach

Task 3 – History of Psychology

You are to create an A4 Psychological history timeline. On your timeline you should include a number of key events/features within Psychology that are listed below AND you MUST include when the key approaches studied last week were introduced.

You will need to do some additional research into what the key events listed below actually refers to and *why* it is significant to the development of Psychology.

- The Curious Case of Phineas Gage
- Wilhelm Wundt's Psychology Lab
- Sigmund Freud publishes '*The Interpretation of Dreams*'
- Pavlov's Dog studies
- Carl Rogers publishes '*Counselling and Psychotherapy*'
- The first use of a brain scan in Psychological research

This will be the focus of the first topic we will study next year. A great link for this task is <https://allpsych.com/timeline/>

Task 4 – Social Influence

Watch the trailer of a film which describes a key Psychology study: the **Stanford Prison Experiment** and write down details about the experiment. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XN2X72jrFk>

Include:

- What were the people (participants) asked to do?
- What happened in the experiment?
- Were any of the results shocking?

Then look at this website for more details:

<https://www.prisonexp.org/the-story>

Create your own storyboard of this experiment!

Task 5 – Memory

Research and answer the following questions:

1. What is memory?
2. Are there different types of memory? If so, what are they?
3. What is the capacity (how much information can we hold) of our memory?
4. What is the duration (how long we can hold information) of our memory?

You are now going to run your own memory experiment!

- Create a shopping list of about 20 everyday items (e.g. eggs, bananas, bread, cheese etc.)
- Then ask a family member at home or friend over Facetime to memorise the shopping list for 1 minute.
- Then remove the list from their sight and ask to write down how many items they can remember and count the correct answers.

Once complete, think about and jot down some answers to the following questions:

1. What do your results suggest about memory?
2. Can we hold much information in our short term memory?
3. Did your participants use any special memory tricks to help them remember more?
4. What could your participants have done to try and improve their memory?
5. How could you apply this to your A Level studies next year?

Task 6 – Attachment

Research and answer the following questions:

1. Define the term Attachment.
2. Do you think it is possible for a child to survive without having formed an attachment? Explain your answer.
3. Do you think attachment between a child and their caregiver (someone who looks after them) is different across the world? If so, how?
4. Research Harlow's Monkey experiment and create a storyboard (drawing or computer) to outline his study and findings.

Task 7 – Psychopathology

Pick one of the psychological disorders below (we will cover these in more detail in Yr12) and Research a little about them:

- Depression
- OCD
- Phobias

Create your own pamphlet/leaflet including:

- An outline of the symptoms an individual may show (what behaviour they might show)
- Explain which type or give examples of the disorder (i.e. types of phobias or examples of phobias)
- How many people in the UK have the disorder
- What treatment options are there to help people with the disorders?

Task 8 – Studying the Brain

Research and make a table of notes on the following ways of studying the brain: MRI scan, fMRI scan, EEG and Post-Mortem. You will need to find out what these abbreviations mean first! Make sure you include strengths and weaknesses of each method.

Task 9 – The Brain!

Create a drawing/picture of the brain. It can be a scientific drawing in cross section or even an artistic representation using any medium, digital or otherwise. The best ones will be used to decorate the classroom in the new school year.

Spend some time learning about the different parts of the brain and annotate your brain picture labelling the key lobes and outlining their function.

Task 10 – Speak like a Psychologist

Now you have completed a number of tasks linked to topics, experiments and key areas we will study during your A Level Psychology course, you are to go through your work from the past 9 weeks and create a glossary of all of the new psychological terminology you have learnt along the way.

You can separate these into each topic for easy reference next year e.g. Memory, Psychopathology.

This will give you a head start for September and have you speaking like a Psychologist from the start!