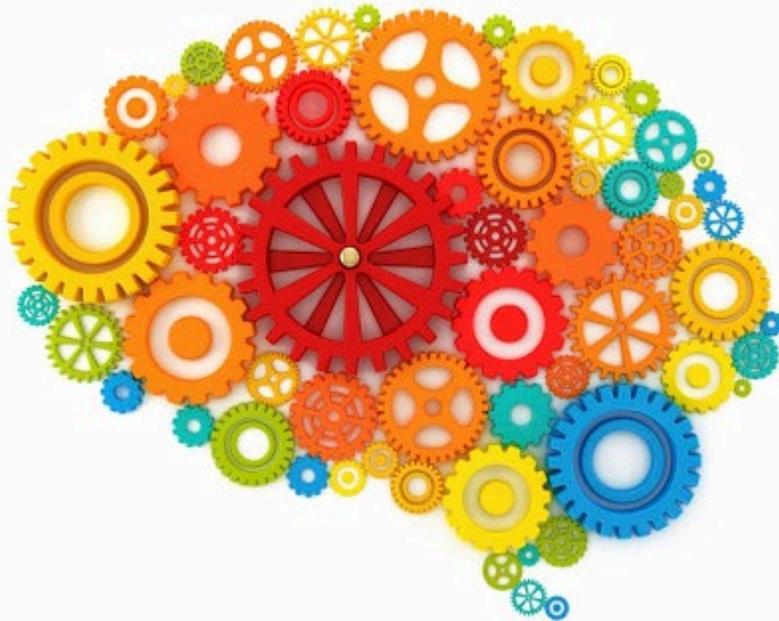




A Level Psychology

Bridging the Gap....Stepping Up



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 one of A Level Psychology.

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

Good luck and Enjoy





The AQA A Level Course

Subject content

Compulsory content

- 1 [Social influence](#)
- 2 [Memory](#)
- 3 [Attachment](#)
- 4 [Psychopathology](#)
- 5 [Approaches in Psychology](#)
- 6 [Biopsychology](#)
- 7 [Research methods](#)
- 8 [Issues and debates in Psychology](#)

Optional – a choice from one of the following options 1-3

Option 1

- 9 [Relationships](#)
- 10 [Gender](#)
- 11 [Cognition and development](#)

Option 2

- 12 [Schizophrenia](#)
- 13 [Eating behaviour](#)
- 14 [Stress](#)

Option 3

- 15 [Aggression](#)
 - 16 [Forensic Psychology](#)
 - 17 [Addiction](#)
- 



Task 1, Topic 1: Marvellous Memory...

Mini Experiment:

In this experiment you can test as many 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 maximum amount of numbers your participants could recall from any line? Test several and calculate the mean value. Extension: work out the standard deviation.
- 2) What do your results suggest about memory?

Now research and answer the following...

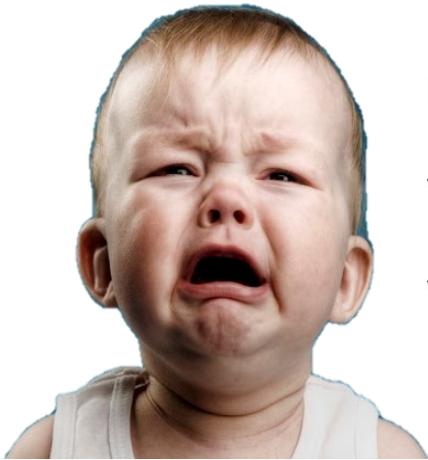
- 1) What is memory? Does it have different types? If so, explain them...
- 2) What is the capacity and duration of the average memory in humans?
- 3) What did George Miller do in 1956? What did he discover about memory? How does this link to the results from your experiment above?



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 shouldn't Mowgley survive in the Jungle?

Hint: Try to link to the psychologist John Bowlby in your answer...

Task 3, Topic 3: Approaches to Psych...

The Famous Five

There are five main Psychological approaches or perspectives. Research them and explain the key terms, assumptions and psychologists which fit into each one.



Task 4, Topic 4: Biopsychology

Apply what you know:

What do you know from studying Biology/Science/PE about any of the following: Nervous system, nerve cells, synapses, endocrine system, hormones, stress, reflexes, the brain.

Summarise what you know on one sheet of paper .

Watch this video about twins and OCD

[Twin sisters with OCD discuss their disorder – YouTube](#)



It is widely accepted that the causes of obsessive-compulsive disorder involve both [genetic and environmental factors](#), and this theory has been supported by research. While OCD has been known to “run in families,” this doesn’t really tell us whether genes or environment plays a more prominent role in the development of the disorder. There have been studies of [twins with OCD](#) who’ve been raised together. These examples raise many questions. For example does OCD in twins typically appear around the same time, with similar obsessions and compulsions?

Now think about and answer the following:

- 1) Why do psychologists like to study twins?
- 2) What is the biological difference between identical and non- identical twins?
- 3) Why is it difficult to draw conclusions about the cause of OCD from studies of twins raised together?
- 4) Research some possible therapies for OCD.



Task 5, Topic 5: Psychology? A Science? Really?

Now to the biggest and most controversial debate of them all....

Most people assume Psychology is an easy or 'soft' subject which cannot possibly be a science. But the exam boards classify it as a Science subject.

It is your job to come to a conclusion as to whether or not Psychology IS a 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

FOR Psych as a Science 😊	AGAINST Psych as a Science ☹️

