



Psychology Y11 to Y12 Transition Summer Work

Welcome to A level psychology, unlike many of your other subjects Psychology will be completely new to you and you may have a number of misconceptions about it, this booklet aims to give you an introduction that will let you see the kind of things that psychologists study and some of the techniques they use.

This will hopefully give you a more accurate picture of what you will spend the next 2 years studying if you are accepted on to the course. One other thing please remember that psychology is a science and we will be doing quite a bit of statistics, not in this booklet though.

Over the summer we would like you to start to explore what psychology is. **These activities are optional**, but if you look at them it will give you a brief outline of some of the areas we will be considering in the course and get you thinking about the human behaviour, and how different factors affect how people respond.

How to complete this booklet.

1. This booklet is designed to run along side the Open University's (OU) free course 'Starting with psychology' You will need to log onto the OU website and create an account then enrol on the 'starting with psychology course' when you have completed the course you can print off a free certificate of participation from the OU, please attach that to this booklet when you are finished.

2. The course has a number of activities to complete as you work through it. If you want, you can record your responses/notes in the places provided in this booklet. I have set additional questions for you to answer as you progress. I hope you enjoy it, I did.

Follow this link to the Open University website - <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/> Click 'free courses' from the bar across the top of the screen. Scroll down and search 'starting with psychology' in the search bar. under the blue heading 'health, sport and psychology', third from the bottom select 'starting with psychology'. Then click 'create account/sign in' Create an account and submit Then click 'sign in to return to the page you were on'. Sign in Click 'enrol now' And begin the course.

3. You might like to print off this booklet, or if printing is a problem make your own booklet by hand.

4. At the end of each section create a key word list, there is a sheet at the end for you to fill in as you go along.

5. Enjoyed it? probably not the questions part though, the Open university offer other free psychology courses including forensic psychology and developmental psychology.



Section 1: Studying People

How does the British Psychological Society define psychology?

Activity 1: boys' toys and girls' toys - List your ideas here Reveal discussion, what ideas had you missed? List them here.

Section 2: A brain of two halves

Introduction Draw & label a diagram of a brain like the one shown.

Write down 5 things you have learnt about the brain from the reading.

2.2 The story of split-brain patients. Watch this split-brain research

Watch - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEduq0wAqd4>

1. What is meant by a split-brain operation?
2. Why is a split-brain operation carried out?



Section 3 IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS Organisation and improved recall

What do cognitive psychologists' study?

Using mental images

1.How do adults think?

2.How can memory be improved?

3.Describe Raugh & Atkinson (1975) study

4.Explain what an independent variable is in an experiment

5.Explain what a dependent variable is in an experiment

6. What else do you need to do to make a good experiment?



Activity 4: Method of LOCI

How many shopping list items do you recall after an hour. You can fill the gap by watching this programme

https://www.ted.com/talks/joshua_foer_feats_of_memory_anyone_can_do#t-11014

Shopping list recall list

FORMING CONCEPTS

1.What is concept formation?

2.Give an example

Activity 5; Defining a simple concept

What is meant by the phrase fuzzy concept?

Describe how children overgeneralise when they're learning concepts?

Schemas

1. What are schemas?

2.Give an example of a schema

3.Briefly describe Bransford & Johnson's (1972) experiment to test schema theory. (you don't need to write out the passage they gave to participants)

4. Identify the IV and the DV in Bransford and Johnson's study

IV=
.....



DV=.....
.....

Section 4 ADULT & INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

Introduction.

1. Who has most relationship research focussed on?

2. Contrary to popular belief how are most marriages across the world entered into?

3. What did Buss' research find about the reasons for getting married in different countries, give two examples

4. Most research has focused on heterosexual relationships, what have researchers found regarding hetero and homo sexual relationships?

Attraction

1. What are the three most important influences in finding another person attractive?

a. Proximity & Familiarity 1. What is meant by the term 'proximity'?

2. What is meant by the term 'familiarity'?

3. What did Zajonc (1968) mean by the 'mere exposure effect'?

b. Similarity

1. What are the most important similarities when forming a relationship?



2. Why does Duck (1992) say that these are the most important similarities

c. Physical appearance

1. What physical attributes are considered attractive in:

Evolutionary psychologists look at how humans have evolved to explain current behaviour.

What does Darwin's theory of evolution & natural selection state?

Based on evolution which type of physical characteristics are the most attractive?

Section 5: Group pressure

1. What was 'Heaven's Gate' & what did they do?

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/robbers-cave.html>

What did Tajfel et al (1971) show in his minimal groups study?

How are his findings different to Sherif's in the robber's Cave study?

Section 6: What makes us who we are?



1. These are just the ones that you have covered in this course, what else do you think contribute to what makes you, You. Add them to the picture. You could think about Harry Potter and Voldemort, both orphans, raised without love, actually, Voldemort gets a better start than Harry, no one is actually horrible to him! One becomes the evil Dark Lord and one the boy who saves the wizarding world, why! I love the boy wizard, so any extra Potter based discussion on this topic here will get extra marks

General Reading Materials for the Psychology A level

A' level Specification for Psychology

AQA A 'level - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology>

Magazines/journals

Psychology Review (Quarterly) - Aimed at A' level students <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/magazines-extras/psychology-review-extras>

The Psychologist (Monthly) - Available in school

Websites/organisations

The British Psychological Society (BPS): <http://www.bps.org.uk>

Washington University Neuroscience Dept: <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html>

Useful online resources, videos, lectures and podcasts:

The British Psychological Society (BPS): <http://www.bps.org.uk>

American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org/>

Ted Talks Psychology Play list - <https://www.ted.com/topics/psychology>

Research Methods

Is Psychology a science?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMKptrh0nwc&list=PL063A5B58F65152C2&index=52&t=0s>

(Part 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOATLTb5Lhg> (Part 2)

Animal experimentation in Psychology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQW4CQvpSRg&list=PL063A5B58F65152C2&index=2&t=0s>

Correlation and Causation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBvmHx28HNM&list=PL063A5B58F65152C2&index=8&t=0s>

Books

Introducing Psychology: A Graphic Guide to Your Mind and Behaviour by Nigel Benson

Mindwatching: Why We Behave the Way We Do by H.J. Eysenck and Michael W. Eysenck

Psychology: A Very Short Introduction by Gillian Butler and Freda McManus

Psychology of Mind, Science and Behaviour by R Gross (5th edition)



Torquay Girls Grammar School



Routledge Modular Psychology Series:

- o Awareness: biorhythms, sleep and dreaming
- o Classification and diagnosis
- o Evolutionary explanations of human behaviour
- o Interpersonal relationships
- o Memory and forgetting
- o Physiological basis of behaviour
- o Psychopathology
- o Social cognition
- o Theoretical approaches in psychology
- o Therapeutic approaches