



The Thomas Hardy School

## Summer Preparation Task

Psychology A Level  
AQA 7182

### Purpose of task:

To research psychology in the real world.  
To understand the different approaches used in Psychology.  
To be able to describe some of the key ways research methods.  
To have an understanding of the importance of ethics when using people in scientific experiments.

### Task:

See booklet attached.

### Recommended resources:

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/#gsc.tab=0>

<http://www.psychology4a.com/>

<http://www.bps.org.uk/>

The Illuminate digital textbook – log in details are included in the booklet introduction.

### Additional Information:

#### Required Stationery and Equipment for A Level Psychology

Pens, of two different colours, HB pencils, highlighters, a ruler and a calculator.  
Three A4 lever arch ring binder folders with file dividers, it is essential that these are purchased in preparation for the course. Folders will be checked at regular intervals throughout the 2 years.

#### Resources

Text books will be available to buy from the department in September or can be purchased independently, it is not compulsory to purchase any. The Illuminate books are both available free online. Log-ins for this will be given out at the start of the course.

Illuminate book AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Illuminate Publishing (ISBN- **9781912820429**)

Illuminate book AQA Psychology for A Level Year 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Illuminate Publishing (ISBN: **9781912820467**)

AQA Psychology for A Level & AS: Your Guide to Exam Success! — (ISBN: **9781913963071**)

Hodder Education AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 (ISBN 9781471834882)

Hodder Education AQA Psychology for A Level Year 2 (ISBN 9781471835377)

#### Things to Consider Throughout the Year

We encourage students to meet up outside of the lessons and work together in a small group. There are lots of resources that you will be sent and directed to throughout the year. These include links to the British Psychological Society, psychboost, radio and television programs as well as articles you can read that will support your studies. There are apps available for revision, as well as alternative books.

### Recommended reading & activities list – There is a power point with this summer work which contains many options of psychology related films and books including the following:

The Lucifer effect Philip Zimbardo

The man who mistook his wife for a hat Oliver Sacks

Opening Skinner's Box Lauren Slater

How the mind works Steven Pinker

**Deadline for Task:** First lesson in week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

# SUMMER TASKS

**In Preparation for Psychology A Level**



*Department of Social Sciences, The Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester*

You must bring this with you to your first lesson in September,  
you can either write in this booklet or on separate paper.

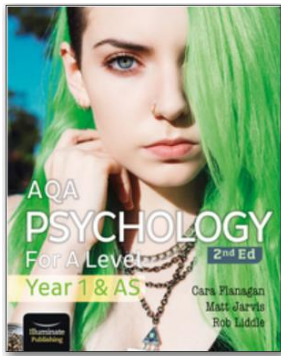
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## Introduction

*About this booklet:*

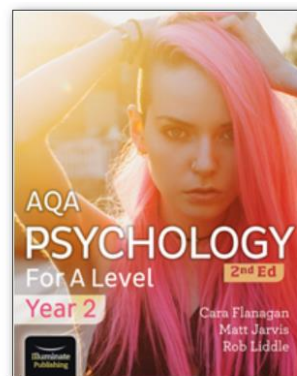
Congratulations for opting to study Psychology; we hope you will enjoy this fascinating subject. Some of your previous knowledge from your studies of maths and biology will be useful as you progress through the course. However, there will be a lot of new information which you will need to absorb quickly if you are to make satisfactory progress during the academic year. We have put this booklet together to prepare you for year 1 psychology. **You will need to bring it along to your first lesson.** Please complete the booklet to the best of your ability, as it will prepare you for study in year 12 and therefore increase your confidence. You can write answers in the booklet or on separate paper.

You can use the online version of our textbooks to help you, you can find them at: <https://www.illuminate.digital/>



Username: **sthomhar7**

Password: **green7**



Username: **sthomhar8**

Password: **pink8**

## What is Psychology?

### Find a definition of Psychology:

Psychology is not very useful unless it is *applied*. This means that there is a practical element to psychology, in that the theories and findings from psychology can be used to influence how schools, prisons, hospitals etc. should best cater for the people they look after. Psychology gives us tools to help improve people's lives. This could be through helping people improve memory or treating phobias.

### Psychology in the real world

**Please find, print and bring to class with you an article that demonstrates or links to psychology in some way.** This could be something you have seen in a newspaper, on the news or online.

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## Approaches in Psychology

When we discuss religion, we are aware that we are not just talking about one religion, but many. Some religions agree with each other, some disagree and some co-exist without agreeing or disagreeing. Use this idea of different perspectives to help you understand the study of psychology. Think of psychology approaches as a collection of different beliefs or approaches about how the mind works. Some psychological approaches agree with each other, some disagree and some co-exist. Unlike religion, psychology is a science.

We will study each of the following areas of Psychology – use the internet and pages 106-121 of the Illuminate Year 1 (green haired girl) book to find out 3 key points to describe each one.

### 1. Behaviourism

### 2. Social Learning Theory

### 3. Cognitive Psychology

### 4. Biological Psychology

### 5. Psychodynamic psychology

### 6. Humanistic psychology

**Match the examples with the correct psychological approach:**

- 1. Behavioural Psychology, 2. Social Psychology, 3. Cognitive Psychology,  
4. Biological Psychology, 5. Psychodynamic psychology, 6. Humanistic psychology.**

Some psychologists want to find out whether children who are aggressive have learnt to behave in this way by copying a role model.

Some psychologists may want to look at **all** aspects of an individual when researching behaviour and would not compare that unique individual to any other person or animal.

Some psychologists want to examine how our behaviour is affected by physical changes, such as the stress response, 'Fight or Flight'

Some psychologists may want to analyse dreams to determine our inner most thoughts and desires.

Some psychologists want to find out if teenage smoking is linked to peer-group pressure.

Some psychologists try to think of ways in which we can all improve our memories.

**2. Some of the above approaches believe that we are born with certain behaviours, that it is innate (nature); others believe that it is our environment that influences our behaviour, nurture (nurture). Plot each of the approaches along the nature-nurture spectrum below, note that it doesn't have to be at one end or the other, they can be plotted anywhere along the spectrum as long as you can explain why you've put it there.**

Nature

Nurture

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## Memory

Our everyday experience of memory is that there are two main types. Some are brief and quickly forgotten but other can last a very long time indeed. Psychologists broadly agree and have investigated in great detail the features of short-term and long-term memory.

**Define these types of long-term memory and add your own examples of each:**

**Episodic:**

**Semantic:**

**Procedural:**

Forgetting is the other side of the coin to remembering. Psychologists have tried to understand and explain it by carrying out research studies and formulating theories about why we forget, one of these theories is interference. **Interference is forgetting because one memory blocks another, causing one or both memories to be distorted or forgotten.**

**Define...**

**Proactive interference:**

**Retroactive interference:**



Marie changes her email address after getting a lot of spam. Six months later her friend asks her what her old email address was but she has forgotten.

**Proactive?**  
*or*  
**Retroactive?**

Lucy learns French at primary school then learns Spanish as well as French at secondary school. When her Spanish teacher asks her what the Spanish for 'dog' she gives the French name 'chien'.



**Proactive?**  
*or*  
**Retroactive?**

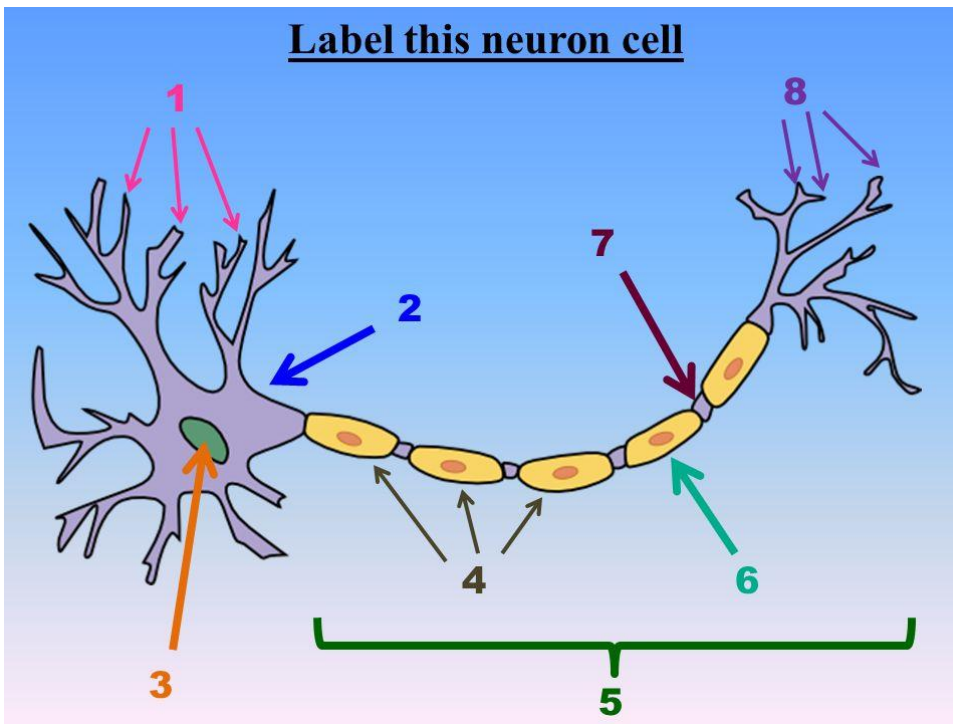


Jim has played doubles tennis for years but when his friend stops playing, he decides to start playing singles matches. At first he keeps the ball within the 'singles' part of the court but after a few matches, he keeps hitting the ball into the tramlines, forgetting that this is not permitted in a singles match.

**Proactive?**  
*or*  
**Retroactive?**

## Biopsychology

### Label this neuron cell



- Nucleus
- Axon terminal buttons
- Myelin sheath
- Nodes of ranvier
- Schwann cell
- Cell body
- Dendrites
- Axon

Label each of the four coloured lobes (blue, purple, green and orange):

- Occipital lobe**
- Frontal lobe**
- Parietal lobe**
- Temporal lobe**

Can you now find and label the following areas?

- Broca's area**
- Visual area**
- Auditory area**
- Wernickes area**
- Somatosensory area**

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## **Research Methods**

**There are different types of research methods that psychologists use to understand the mind. Research the definition for each of these methods.**

Experiment

Observation Study

Case Study

Correlation study

Questionnaire

**When carrying out research psychologists must select the experimental design that best fits the nature of their study. Research the definitions for each of these designs.**

Independent groups

Repeated measures

Matched pairs

**Psychologists must also decide the type of experiment which will be most appropriate for what they are researching. Research the definitions for each of these types.**

Laboratory experiment

Field experiment

Natural experiment

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Quasi-experiments

**Psychologists can use different sampling techniques to get participants for their research. Research the definitions for each of these techniques.**

Random sample

Systematic sample

Stratified sample

Opportunity sample

Volunteer sample

**You will remember from GCSE science needing to identify a dependent and independent variable within a study.**

**What is meant by independent variable (IV)?**

**What is meant by dependent variable (DV)?**

**For each of the examples below identify the variable, to stretch yourself see if you can identify which experimental design was used.**

**Experiment 1:** A psychologist wanted to study the effects of sleep deprivation. In one condition participants were asked to limit their sleep to only 2 hours per night for a week. In the other condition participants were encouraged to have 8 hours sleep per night for a week. Each day the participants' cognitive abilities were assessed using a memory test.

- IV:
  
- DV:
  
- Experimental design:

**Experiment 2:** A psychologist wanted to study whether the time of day affects performance on a maths test. He gave his participants a maths test to complete in the morning, and then a different maths test to complete in the afternoon.

- IV:

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- DV:
  
- Experimental design:

**Experiment 3:** A psychologist wanted to investigate invasion of personal space by conducting an experiment in a men's urinal. There were three conditions; a man stands right next to the participants while they urinate, one urinal away, or is absent. An observer recorded how long it took the men to urinate.

- IV:
  
- DV:
  
- Experimental design:

**You will also recognise the following maths calculations from GCSE, work your way through the questions below, you can use a calculator.**

1. Please calculate the following: PERCENTAGES
  - a. 50% of 260
  - b. 10% of 450
  - c. 5% of 86
  - d. 3% of 62
  - e. 11% of 70
  - f. 75% of 340
  - g. 25% of 652
  
2. Please calculate the following: FRACTIONS
  - a.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 46
  - b.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 58
  - c.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 64
  - d.  $\frac{1}{5}$  of 500
  - e.  $\frac{1}{8}$  of 730
  - f.  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 100
  - g.  $\frac{2}{4}$  of 739
  
3. Please calculate the following: RATIOS
  - a. Share £48 between Alan and Barbara in the ratio 2:1
  - b. Share £60 between Laura and Robert in the ratio 1:3
  - c. Share 80 marbles between Stuart and Carl in the ratio 4:1
  - d. Share 91 sweets between Peter and Becky in the ratio 4:3
  - e. Share 70 coloured beads between Janet and Christine in the ratio 3:2
  - f. Share £120 between Carly and Paul in the ratio 3:5

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4. Please calculate the following: MEASURES OF CENTRAL TENDENCY (AVERAGES)
- a. What is the mean from this data set:
    - i. 8,7,6,5,2,2,3,4,6,8
  - b. What is the median from this data set:
    - i. 1,1,3,9,4,4,5,6,6,8
  - c. What is the mode from this data set:
    - i. 1,2,2,2,4,5,3,2,1,7
  - d. What is the range of this data set:
    - i. 11,13,14,15,9,17,14,15,16
  - e. What is the mean from this data set:
    - i. 11,12,18,14,15,16,13,13,13,14
  - f. What is the median from this data set:
    - i. 56,72,34,33,32,14,15,17,72,87
  - g. What is the mode from this data set:
    - i. 9,9,9,9,9,6,6,6,6,6,1,1,1,1,1,1,1
  - h. What is the range from this data set:
    - i. 1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1

## **Ethics in Psychology**

It is vital that you understand the importance of ethical awareness when conducting psychological research. Since we are trying to understand better how humans think, feel and behave, researchers will of course be working with people. Gone are the days when psychological researchers could just experiment on people without their permission or without properly informing them. To ensure that participants are protected, we have the British Psychological Society, which is a body that regulates and over-views psychological investigations and clinical practice in the UK.

Visit the BPS website and find out more about their ethical codes which are in place to protect participants and patients. You can also use the online Year 1 (green haired girl) textbook pg. 176-177.

**<http://www.bps.org.uk/what-we-do/ethics-standards/ethics-standards>**

Read about the ethical guidelines and then answer the following questions.

1. What is meant by informed consent?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is meant by the right to withdraw?

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3. What is meant by deception? Why might this be an issue for psychologists?
  
4. What is meant by debriefing?
  
5. What is meant by confidentiality?
  
6. What types of harm must participants be protected from?

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