AQA PSYCHOLOGY A-LEVEL

Taverham Sixth Form

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NAME .....

Psychology: Session Notes

Drawing space

A-Level Psychology

Minimum requirements are six GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including Maths and English Language, and Grade 5 in *either* Biology *or* Maths.

You will be taught the AQA | Psychology | A-Level | A-level Psychology. The specification has been designed to provide a thorough introduction to the scope and nature of psychology as a science, through the delivery of a broad range of topics. The emphasis is on applying knowledge and understanding rather than just acquiring knowledge, thereby developing your transferable skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking.

Course Overview

Paper 1: introductory topics in psychology

Social psychology
Attachment
Memory
Clinical Psychology

Paper 2: psychology in context

Approaches
Biopsychology
Research methods

Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology

Issues and debates in psychology
Relationships *or* gender *or* cognition and development
Schizophrenia *or* eating disorders *or* stress
Aggression *or* forensic psychology *or* addiction

Each paper is a written exam lasting 2 hours, 96 marks and 33.3% of the overall A-level.

Each paper is a combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing style questions.

Assessment Objectives

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all A-level psychology specifications and all exam boards. The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- **AO1**: demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures
- **AO2**: apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures:
  - in a theoretical context
  - in a practical context
  - when handling qualitative data
  - when handling quantitative data
- **AO3:** analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to:
  - make judgments and reach conclusions
  - develop and refine practical design and procedures

Session Objectives

- To apply your knowledge of experiments in a psychological context
- To outline and replicate Jenness' (1932) research on conformity

Key Terms	Definitions
Conformity	A change in a person's behaviour or opinions as a result of real or perceived pressure from others/the situation
Aim	Developed from theories and are general statements that describe the purpose of an investigation.
Hypothesis	A testable statement which predicts the outcome at the start of a study.
Ambiguous	Open to more than one interpretation; not having one obvious meaning.
Social influence	Social influence comprises the ways in which individuals adjust their behaviour to meet the demands of a social environment.

Jenness (1932) was one of the first psychologists to study conformity. His experiment used an ambiguous situation involving a glass bottle filled with beans. He asked participants individually to estimate how many beans the bottle contained.

Jenness then put the group in a room with the bottle and asked them to provide a group estimate through discussion.

Task: What do you think Jenness (1932) found?

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A Thinking Experiment: estimating quantities

Task: add the study aim and hypothesis to your booklet

Aim

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Experimental Hypothesis

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Null Hypothesis

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Data Table

Participant Number	Estimate Before Discussion	Estimate After Discussion	Difference	Change in estimate (Y/N)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Data Analysis

Calculate the total number of participants who changed their scores:

Use your calculation above to work out the percentage of participants who changed their scores:

Drawing conclusions

Task: Write a few sentences to summarise the findings of the investigation:

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Task- Which hypothesis are you accepting and why?

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Discussion

What went well?	What could be improved?

With help and support from your teacher you will be actively involved in monitoring your own targets and achievements in psychology. It will be expected that all your work will be completed on time and will then be marked and returned to you promptly. You will be expected to make any changes/additions suggested on all marked work. Failure to complete work will be dealt with by Ms Reding, Ms Crossley and the sixth form team.

Please be aware that if you are eligible for a post 16 bursary then costs for approved relevant resources may be covered depending on family circumstances – please ask in the sixth form office for further details.

Psychology is a fascinating subject that seems to interest all. The knowledge and skills you can develop are relevant in many walks of life and will stay with you, long after you leave school, regardless of your chosen career path. Lessons will be planned to stimulate and challenge your understanding but the more you put into psychology, the more you will enjoy it.

Preparation for September

Task One

Psychology Over Time

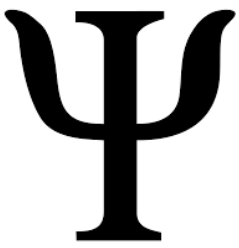
Research how the concept of psychology has progressed over time by plotting the key people, approaches and their perspectives about psychology on a timeline. Please make sure you include:

- Rene Descartes – Cartesian Dualism
- John Locke – Empiricism
- Charles Darwin – Theory of Evolution
- Wilhelm Wundt – Structuralism & Introspection
- Sigmund Freud – Psychodynamic Approach
- John Watson & BF Skinner – Behaviourist Approach
- Carl Rogers – Humanistic Approach
- Cognitive Approach
- Biological Approach
- Cognitive Neuroscience

Task Two

Case Study profile

Read the article 'Psychology's 10 Greatest Case Studies' - Psychology's 10 Greatest Case Studies – Digested | BPS Pick any case study from this article and find as much information as possible about it using a variety of legitimate, reliable sources. Make it clear where this case study could fit within the psychology specification we will be studying. You can present your work in any format you like (poster, mind map, essay, social media profile etc) although it must not exceed a single side of A4.



Please bring the work to your first lesson in September and be prepared to discuss what you have found. Please take your time completing these tasks, and ensure all work is in your own words as this will be our first impression of you in psychology. What kind of student do you want to be in the sixth form?

We look forward to seeing you in September!