

A-Level Psychology

Psychology is a subject that is at the forefront of scientific research relating to people so these topics have been chosen as they are present day issues that are important to you, as well as everyone else on the planet!

Please complete the following tasks to bring with you to the July induction days.

Task One: personal interest

Log on to the British Psychological Society (BPS) Research Digest [podcast page](#)

Pick a podcast that is on a topic that interests you. What does the podcast tell you about the topic? Why did you pick that particular topic? Does this podcast prompt any questions? Hopefully it has, so research these yourself to find some answers.

Task Two: psychological implications of Covid-19

Psychology is the study of mind and behaviour and the biggest thing that has impacted both of these elements in recent months is the coronavirus pandemic. It is giving psychologists a truly unique opportunity to study how people react in quite extreme circumstances. Ethically, psychologists wouldn't be able to create an experiment on this scale.

Part A Research the British Psychological Society and their ethical guidelines for psychological research. Use this information to explain why psychologists are so keen to take advantage of this research opportunity, rather than design their own experiment.

Part B Use [Google Scholar](#) to search for published research that investigates Covid-19 with a psychological focus. Read the brief research summaries (aka. Abstracts) and explain what impact Covid-19 is having on people's minds and behaviour.

Task Three: psychology and racial discrimination

Use [Google Scholar](#) to find the following articles:

Thomas, W. I. (1904)

The psychology of race-prejudice

American Journal of Sociology, 4 (5), 593-611

Richeson, J. A. & Sommers, S. R. (2016)

Toward a social psychology of race and race relations for the twenty-first century

Annual Review of Psychology, 67, 439-463

The full articles are easily accessible so read them both, making note of the pertinent points as you go. These articles are from two very different time periods so it is interesting to compare what they have to say. What do they agree on? What do they disagree on? Does any of this surprise you? What do you think future psychological research needs to focus on to have a positive impact on racial discrimination?

We look forward to seeing you at the July induction days
