

Name:

# A level psychology Preparation Work

Hello and welcome to A level Psychology! 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 to some of the key concepts and studies that you will be studying.

## How to complete this booklet.

1. This booklet is designed to run along side the Open University's 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 have finished.
2. The course has a number of activities to complete as you work through it. Record your responses/notes in the places provided in this booklet. I have set additional questions for you to answer as you progress which you might need to complete further research for using the internet.

**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 need 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. WHAT YOU NEED TO HAND IN ON RETURN IN SEPTEMBER:
  1. The completed booklet
  2. Your certificate of participation

Week no	Sections of booklet to complete	Completed	Films, books, programmes to help with your learning
1	Section 1 Studying people		
	Section 2 A brain of two halves 2.1 Introduction		

	<b>2.2 The story of split brain patients.</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Section 3 IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS</b> 3.1 organisation and improved recall 3.2 Using mental images		<a href="#"><u>Sherlock- BBC IPlayer</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Memento- film</u></a> <a href="#"><u>50 first dates</u></a>
<b>3</b>	3.3 Forming concepts 3.4 Schemas		
<b>4</b>	<b>Section 4 ADULT &amp; INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS</b> 4.1 Introduction. 4.2 Attraction 4.6 Staying together or falling apart		<a href="#"><u>Aypical -netfix</u></a> <a href="#"><u>When Harry Met Sally -film</u></a>
<b>5</b>	<b>Section 5: Group pressure</b> 5.1 Introduction.		<a href="#"><u>12 Angry Men -film</u></a>
<b>6</b>	5.2 In-groups & out-groups		<a href="#"><u>Lord of the Flies by W. Golding- book</u></a>
<b>7</b>	5.3 Groups and conformity		<a href="#"><u>Mean Girls- film</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Legally Blonde- film</u></a>
<b>8</b>	<b>Section 6: What makes us who we are</b> 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Multiple influences		<a href="#"><u>Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman - book</u></a> <a href="#"><u>The Perks of Being a Wall Flower -book &amp; film</u></a> <a href="#"><u>The Truman Show – film</u></a>
<b>9</b>	6.3 The Zidane head-but 6.4 Zidane's background		
<b>10</b>	Key term list		

## Section 1: Studying people.

Q1. 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

### 2.1 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 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEduG0wAgd4>

### Questions.

1. What is meant by a split-brain operation?

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.....

2. Why is a split-brain operation carried out?

.....  
.....

### Roger Sperry (1968)

3. Explain what happened in Sperry's study when a split-brain patient was blindfolded and given object to feel with their left hand.

.....  
.....

4. Can you explain why this happened? (if you can't don't worry, Sperry's work is very difficult to follow)

.....  
.....

Watch this to see the experiment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCv4K5aStdU>

### Useful info-

When you see something like 'Sperry (1968)' The name is the name of the psychologist that did the study, the date refers to when it was published in a scientific Journal. Research has to be checked by other scientists- a process called peer review and then it can be published. If you see a name followed by 'et al' means there were more academics involved in the study.

Watch this clip of the Big bang theory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb0t-3470IE>

### Activity 2a & 2b

Did you get the answers right?

If not don't be put off, these are very difficult studies to follow.

*How are split brain patients able to operate normally in real life, outside of the experiment?*

## Section 3 IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

### 3.1 organisation and improved recall

Q1. What do cognitive psychologists' study?

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.....

### 3.2 Using mental images

1. How can memory be improved?

.....  
.....

2. Describe Raugh & Atkinson's (1975) study.

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.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

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 3- Identifying Variables

Write down your answers here

The IV.....

The DV.....

A variable that should be controlled .....

### 3.3 FORMING CONCEPTS

1. What is concept formation?

.....  
.....

2. Give an example

.....  
.....

#### Activity 5 - Defining a Simple Concept

Write down the defining features of a table

3. What is meant by the phrase fuzzy concept?

.....  
.....

4. Describe how children overgeneralise when learning concepts?

.....  
.....

#### Activity 6 - A Memory Test.

Write down the words you can recall here.

Reveal discussion- words you recalled with the extra cues

5. In experiments of this kind most participants recall more after they have been given a cue, what does this show us about our memories?

.....  
.....

*Describe Mandler's (1967) experiments- you can use words or a diagram*

**Activity 7 - Identifying Variables Again**

Identify the IV & the DV in the Mandler experiment

Independent variable (IV)

Dependent variable (DV)

**3.4 Schemas (this is one of my favourites)**

*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 participants)*

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

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

*IV=.....*

*DV=.....*

## Section 4 ADULT & INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

### 4.1 Introduction.

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

.....  
.....

2. What did Buss's 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?

.....  
.....

### 4.2 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:

Females

Males

Both sexes

2. Which is the celebrity you find most attractive?..... Do they fit the pattern identified above?

Do you know what 'personal adverts' as mentioned in Cameron's study are?

.....

**Activity 8 - Testing Cameron's Research**

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

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

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.....

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

.....  
.....

6. In Swami & Furnham's (2006) study what is the characteristic of females that is found to be attractive across many cultures?

.....  
.....

7. How does preferred body weight of females differ between cultures?

.....  
.....

8. What is the matching hypothesis?

.....  
.....

9. What is your schema for an attractive person? Fill in the characteristics YOU prize in the box below.

1. What are Sternberg's three components of love?

- ♥ .....
- ♥ .....
- ♥ .....

**Activity 9 - Your Relationships**

Notes here

**Reveal discussion to find the key to successful relationships.**

2. How did Gottesman (1999) collect his data?

.....  
.....

3. What characteristics did successful couples have?

.....  
.....

**Section 5: Group Pressure**

**5.1 Introduction.**

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

.....  
.....

Watch this - Cults Explained [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NWifV1\\_XQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NWifV1_XQ)

You could also watch 'Mean girls' and 'West side story.'

**5.2 In-groups & out-groups**

1. What is meant by an 'in-group'

2. What is meant by an outgroup?

**Activity 10 - Us and Them**

Examples of us & them thinking in article

Any Extra examples from the 'reveal discussion'

3. Describe the robbers cave study

Get more details here <https://www.simplypsychology.org/robbers-cave.html>

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

.....  
.....

5. How are his findings different to Sherif's in the Robber's Cave study?

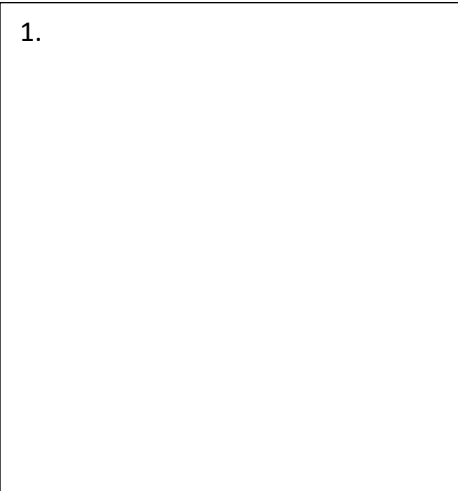
.....  
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6. Wetherell (1982) compared North American/British children to Pacific Island & Maori children using the minimal groups test. What did she find?

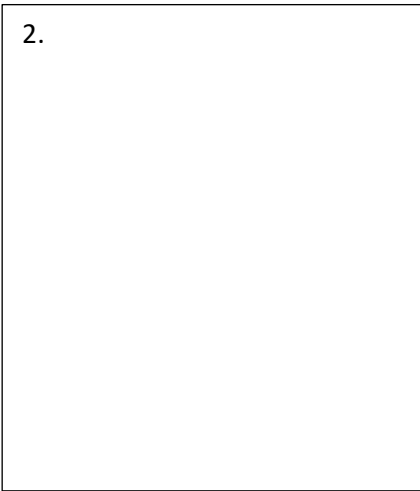
.....  
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7. Tajfel & Turner developed SOCIAL IDENTITY THEORY (1979) they proposed 3 stages name each a draw them in the boxes below.

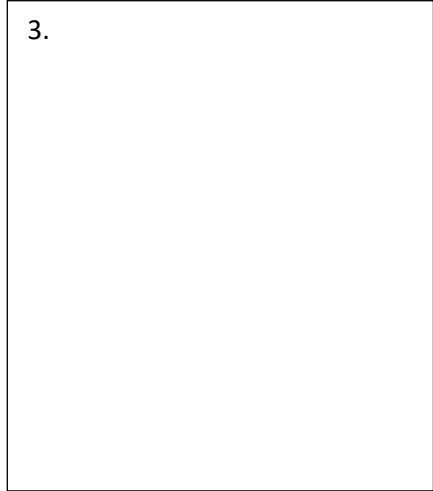
1.



2.



3.



8. How does SIT (social identity theory) explain racist attacks?

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.....

9. What is a stereotype?

.....  
.....

10. Stereotypes and over generalisations help us understand the world, when do they become dangerous?

.....  
.....

Watch this :The fake link between race and IQ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5aOnGdWr78>

## 5.3 Groups and conformity

### Activity 11 - Group Pressure

Jot down here times you can think of when you have conformed.

1. Activity 11 asks you to imagine what you would do in Asch's experiment. Follow this link to see the study explained and footage from the study. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyDDyT1lDhA>

The clip is introduced by psychologist Philip Zimbardo, who is responsible for the infamous Stanford prison study, a study so famous they have made at least two films about it. Remember they are for entertainment so do not provide an accurate representation of the study.

IMDB 'The Stanford prison experiment' <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0420293/>

IMDB 'The experiment' (2010) [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0997152/?ref=tt\\_sims\\_tt](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0997152/?ref=tt_sims_tt)

2. Draw a bar chart of Asch's result- label it correctly.

3. Identify the 3 variations in procedure that Asch tried AND explain how they affected conformity levels.

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4. What factors have some psychologists suggested led to high levels of conformity in the Asch study?

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**Bond & Smith (1996) found that collectivist cultures were more conformist than individualistic cultures.**

5. What is a collectivist culture? Give an example

.....

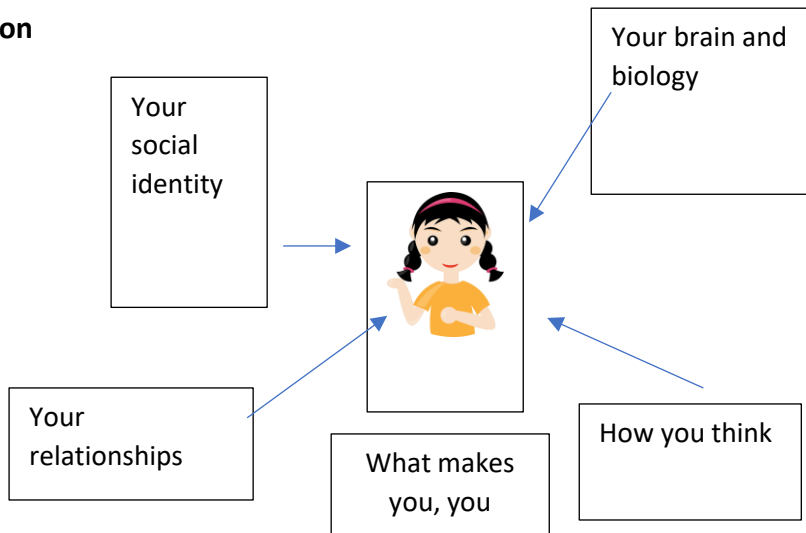
.....

6. What is an Individualistic culture? Give an example.

.....  
.....  
*7. Why is conformity a good thing?*  
.....  
.....

## Section 6: What makes us who we are?

### 6.1 introduction



### 6.2 Multiple influences

*1. Give some examples of (within) internal influences on an individual's behaviour.*

.....  
.....

*2. Give some examples of factors of (outside) external influences on behaviour*

.....  
.....

## 6.3 The Zidane head-butt

### Activity 12 - The Incident

Read the description and make notes on what you think may have happened. Zidane head-butt on you tube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAjWi663kXc>

Psychologists must be careful to distinguish between what they observe, and what they infer.

*1. What did you observe in the you tube clip of Zidane and what did you infer?*

Observations

Inferences

## 6.4 Zidane's background

### Activity 13 - Why did he do it?

Jot down all the different explanations **you** can think of as to WHY Zidane head-butted the other man.

What explanations do the public come up with for Zidane's behaviour?

**Biological**

**Cognitive**

**Social**

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Finally,

Write a paragraph explaining how the three approaches interact to explain Zidane's behaviour.

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Almost done you just need a list of key terms from each section

Section 1 Studying People	
Key term	Definition

Section 2	

Section 3	




<b>Section 4</b>	

<b>Section 5</b>	

<b>Section 6</b>	

