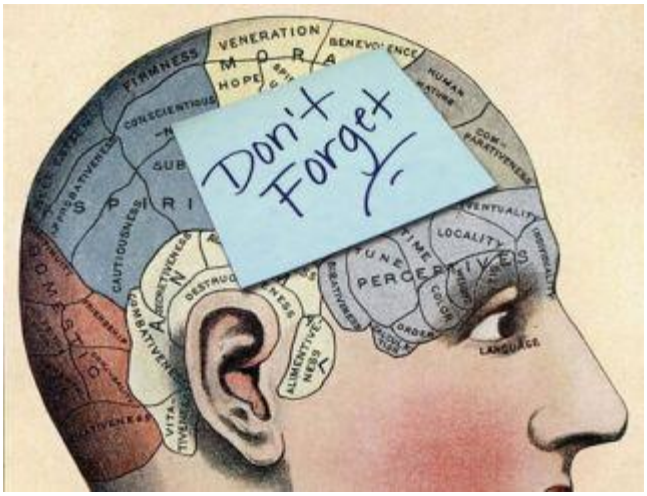
# The AQA Course

A Level Year 1




# SUMMER WORK 2019

A Level Psychology

SUMMER PROJECT

*Mrs. Nicholas*

A Level Psychology

# The A-level specification at a glance

***Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology Written paper***

- 33.33%
- 2 hour written exam
- 96 marks
- 4 compulsory sections worth 24 marks each

***Paper 2: Psychology in Context Written paper***

- 33.33%
- 2 hour written exam
- 96 marks
- 2 compulsory sections worth 24 marks each, plus Research Methods double compulsory section (48 marks)

***Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology***

- 33.33%
- 2 hour written exam
- 96 marks
- 1 compulsory section worth 24 marks then optional content, one from Option 1, Option 2 and Option 3

# Assessment Objectives for A-level Psychology

- **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 theoretical and practical contexts; when handling qualitative and quantitative data.
- **AO3** Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, to: make judgements and reach conclusions, develop and refine practical design and procedures.

# Task 1, Topic 1: Marvellous Memory…

## Mini Experiment:

In this experiment you can test as many or as little people as you like. As the experimenter you should read out one line at a time of the triangle of numbers below to your participant. When you have finished reading out the line, your participant should recite back to you as many of the numbers they can remember. Record how many numbers they recall correctly on each line.

6
27 35
10 28 22
38 46 10 11
52 8 19 81 17
55 38 29 13 8 71
75 17 20 61 82 5 12
61 38 17 40 49 84 57 8
71 22 31 89 47 5 1 16 94
18 95 48 30 89 67 18 11 15 17
76 83 40 28 25 12 15 53 95 49 20
16 9 11 17 49 50 28 69 24 53 78 10
77 53 49 76 19 94 87 64 23 19 15 51 2
78 56 34 19 27 20 80 42 38 64 29 10 79 31

*Now think about and explain:*

1) What was the maximum amount of numbers your participants call recall from any line? (If you used more than one participant, take the average).

2) What do your results suggest about memory?

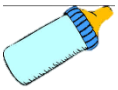
***Now research and answer the following…***

1) What is memory? Does it have different types? If so, explain them…

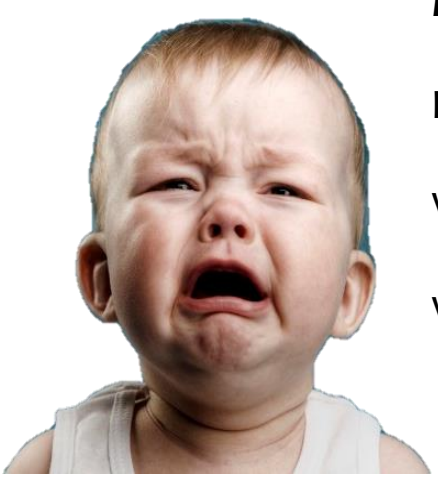
2) What is the capacity and duration of the average memory in humans?

3) What did George Miller do in 1956? What did he discover about memory? How does this link to the results from your experiment above?

# Task 2, Topic 2: Attachment



## Babies, Babies, Babies…



***Research and answer the following:***

**From a Psychological Perspective…**

Why do babies cry all of the time?

Why are all babies born with blue eyes?

Useful Link: http://www.babycenter.com/2_creating-an-attachment-with-your-baby_10350318.bc

***Consider, research and answer the following:***

From a Psychological point of view, why do babies attach to their parents?

*Hint:* Try to link to the psychologist John Bowlby in your answer…

# Task 3, Topic 3: Social Influence

## Obedience, Obey, Conform…

***Research and produce a fact sheet on two key studies:***

1) Milgram's (1963) Obedience to Authority

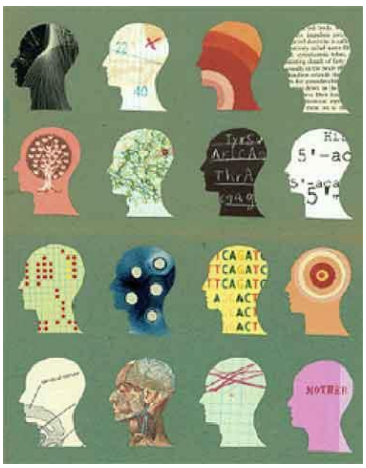
2) Zimbardo's Stanford Prison Experiment

## Taking it further…

***What ethical issues were there in Milgram and Zimbardo's study?***

# Task 4, Topic 4: Psychopathology…

## What is normal?



***Consider, research and explain…***

1) Is there such a thing as normal and abnormal? What are the definitions of these?

2) How do Psychologists decide what is abnormal?

## Fear. Sadness. Obsession.

Produce a fact file on each of the following mental disorders. Include **symptoms,** potential **causes** and **treatments**.

1) Phobias
2) Depression
3) OCD

# Task 5, Topic 5: Approaches to Psych...

## The Famous Five

There are five main Psychological approaches or perspectives. Research them and explain the key terms, assumptions and psychologists which fit into each one.

# Task 6, Topic 6: Psychology? A Science? Really?

**Now to the biggest and most controversial debate of them all….**

Most people assume Psychology is an easy or 'soft' subject which cannot possibly be a science. But is it?

It is your job to come to a conclusion as to whether or not Psychology IS a hard science.

Research arguments for and against Psychology as a Science and produce a debate on this.

Consider:

1) The Subject Content
2) Research Methods Used

| FOR Psych as a Science ☺ | AGAINST Psych as a Science ☹ |
|---|---|
| | |

# Reference List: *Important Definitions*

Create a definition list for the following key terms. These will be very useful when evaluating key concepts and theories!!

Reliability

Inter-rater reliability

Validity

Concurrent validity

Internal validity

External validity

Ecological validity

Temporal validity

Generalisability

Demand characteristics

Ethical issues

Investigator effects

Demand characteristics

Objectivity

# Useful Resources & Further Reading

## To help you on your way…

### Websites:

- **Youtube** have a number of really good factual clips. In particular 'Crash Course' have produced a number of introductory videos to key elements in Psychology.
- **http://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html** - Tailored to the old specification, but has all the relevant key information for A Level Psychology.
- **http://www.psychteacher.co.uk/** - Tailored to the old specification but contains key information for A Level Psychology.

### Books:

- ***Working Memory, Thought and Action*** – Alan Baddeley
- ***The Lucifer Effect*** – Phillip Zimbardo
- ***Obedience to Authority*** – Stanley Milgram
- ***Fundamentals of Cognition*** – Michael Eysenck
- ***Psychology: The Science of the Mind and Behaviour*** – Richard Gross
- ***The Complete Companions: AQA Psychology Year 1 and AS Student Book*** – Mike Cardwell & Cara Flanagan
- ***AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS Student Book*** – Cara Flanagan & Dave Berry