



PSYCHOLOGY INDUCTION TASK

Psychology is the science of human behaviour, thought and emotion. Read ALL the following guidance carefully before beginning your assignment.

The A level induction activities below require you to access the free online textbook. The link and log in details are provided below. Please note that this is a very reliable website, that students have been using regularly for years. However, you do have the option to purchase the hard copy of this (**ISBN-13:** 978-1908682406), which is our recommended textbook. You may get some good deals on second hand copies.

Log in details: <https://www.illuminate.digital/aqapsych1/>

Student Username: **SGUIL** Password: **STUDENT**

Activities

Guidance:

- **Have the following for submission in your first Psychology lesson.** This must be your own work. Take pride in the quality of the finished product.
- You will not be able to do all this work in one or two sessions. Spend a good amount of time on this over several sessions. As a guide, it should be **at least 8 hours of work**, but significantly more than this if you want to make a great start in this course.
- Do not just 'blind copy' the answers; you need to understand what you are writing.
- **Revise the content thoroughly after completion, as you will be assessed on it in the first lesson of psychology. Test yourself on your understanding!**
- **If you have any questions on the tasks**, email me on: ssheehan@guilborough.northants.sch.uk

1. **Read page 10 of the online textbook carefully.** (Note: page 10 to 11 will be on the same screen. You can zoom in on any section use the + on the bottom right)

a. **Write** (at least) a paragraph summary of the **biological approach to psychology**. Include the causes of human behaviour it focuses on and the methods it uses to investigate human behaviour.

b. **Now write** the same for the **behavioural approach to psychology**, with the same structure.

Optional extension: note down any **key differences** between these two approaches, in terms of their key assumptions (beliefs about human behaviour): for this you can research and refer to the **'nature nurture' debate**. How do their methods of investigating human behaviour compare?

2. **Read page 11 of the online textbook carefully, then for each of the following, write at least 2 sentences.**

a. What does the iceberg represent in the **psychodynamic approach**?

b. What are the key beliefs of the **humanistic approach**?

For the following write at least a paragraph:

c. Write a summary of the **cognitive approach**. What does it focus on when studying humans? How does it explain mental disorders, such as depression? What methods does it use to investigate human behaviour?

3. **Research Methods in Psychology**. Read pages 8-9 of the online textbook (**Extension:** you can also use other sections of the textbook for this task; use the contents section to find relevant pages). Write a short essay titled '**Research Methods in Psychology**'.

Guidance:

- Avoid the writing in the 'first person', this simply means do not use words "I" or "Me".
- Avoid overly long sentences (keep them nice and 'concise').
- Do not write things down that you do not understand; spend time trying to digest the information before writing. **Extend your vocabulary by looking up unfamiliar words!**

Suggested structure:

- The different methods used in Psychology. The problems with each method.
- Some of the 'ethical issues' in psychological research.
- How results are analysed.

Extension: What is meant by **validity** in psychology? What are the different types? Why is validity important in research?

4. **REQUIRED.** Contact someone who has studied or is studying A level Psychology. Ask them about the following, then write it up (you could even conduct a structured interview on a video call, e.g. 'Zoom', and this will be your first piece of psychological research ☺ – do not use their name in your write up though!).

- A. What have they found interesting/enjoyable about Psychology?
- B. **More importantly:** what are the main challenges of the course?
- C. If they could go back in time, what advice would they give themselves at the start of the course?

5. **Further optional extension tasks:** Research one or more of the following famous studies in psychology and make brief summary notes:

1. Zimbardo's prison study 2. The case of Henry Molaison (also known simply as 'HM')

3. The case of Genie 4. The case of Phineas Gage 5. Harlow's Monkeys 6. Little Albert

If you email me I can recommend reading and clips on the above

ssheehan@guiltsborough.northants.sch.uk

The above activities are all designed to give you a great start in this course, but also to give you an idea of some of the key content. The two key aspects of this course are *Approaches to Psychology and *Research Methods. Like all A levels it will be a significant step up in challenge from GCSEs. Use this time to reflect on your approach to independent study; ensure that you test yourself on the content once you've completed all activities. This is the best way to make progress throughout your A level studies.

Best of luck all your A level induction tasks! I hope they provide you with purpose during this exceptional period. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Mr Sheehan