

A Level Psychology

Transition Pack

What does Pavlov use to wash his hair?
Classical conditioner!



Psychology: *the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour*

You are required to complete **ALL** the activities in this transition pack for submission in the first week back of the academic year. **The A level in psychology is a fascinating, embracing yet challenging qualification.** It will develop a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace. The AQA A level psychology specification that we will follow offers an engaging and stimulating introduction to the study of psychology, combined with the academic integrity and skills that Higher Education and employers value. There will be 8 hours of lessons per fortnight. It is then expected that you spend 3 to 5 hours a week on homework and independent study at home and during your study periods at school.

This is a detailed and comprehensive assignment that you have been given. **Do not rush it.** We advise that you complete different parts of the transition pack at different points in the Summer holiday, rather than leaving it all until the final week of your break. **You should expect to spend longer on these tasks than any homework you have completed before.** A Level Psychology will be a significant step up from the work you have completed in Year 11.

Task One – Approaches in Psychology

There are some core approaches to Psychology that you need to know for your A level – they are different ways of explaining human behaviours. Some of these are listed below: your job is to do some research on them using the internet. You should find out: what does this word mean? How might it explain human behaviour? Identify one key researcher from this area – and why are they famous?

The Behaviourist Approach

The Social Learning Theory Approach

The Cognitive Approach

The Biological Approach

Optional extension: The Psychodynamic Approach & Humanistic Approach

Task Two – Psychological History

You need to create an A4 Psychological History timeline. On your timeline you should include a number of features such as the ones below (but not necessarily ONLY these). To make a high quality timeline, you will need to do some additional research into what each of the events actually refers to – and why it might have been important to the development of Psychology.

The Curious Case of Phineas Gage, Wilhelm Wundt's Psychology Lab, foundation of the American Psychological Association, Sigmund Freud publishes "*The Interpretation of Dreams*", Pavlov's Dog Studies are published, Carl Rogers publishes "*Counselling and Psychotherapy*", the first use of a brain scan in Psychological research.

This will be the focus of the first topic we will study next year. A great link for this task is <https://allpsych.com/timeline/>.

Task Three – Psychology Today

Psychology is still a developing subject, with new research and information being revealed every single day. As keen young Psychologists, you need to keep abreast of new information. Twitter is seen by some to be the future of social science – it is used by researchers, academics and other social scientists alike to share news and information as well as discuss issues. I would advise that

you create yourselves Twitter accounts as soon as possible and follow the below users for information and news:

@PsychToday (Psychology Today magazine)

@tutor2uPsych (Tutor2U's Psychology feed)

@ResearchDigest (the British Psychological Society's Research feed)

@Psychmag (The Psychologist magazine)

Your second task is to keep an eye on these Twitter accounts (as well as wider sources – the news and shows on TV, newspapers and others – there are loads of fantastic movies and documentaries that you can watch for Psychology!) over the Summer holidays and make a note of any particularly interesting news that is relevant to Psychology.

Task Four – Researching Psychological Disorders

Your final task is to explore some psychology in the real world by looking at two of the following disorders. For each, you should create a short fact-file: what is the disorder? What are the psychological causes? How do psychologists treat this disorder? Choose two to complete, but if you like you can complete more! The disorders are:

- Depression or Manic Depression or Seasonal Affective Disorder
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder or Tourette Syndrome
- Phobias – can be a specific phobia
- Schizophrenia

If you have any further questions while you are enjoying your Summer holiday, my email address can be found below 😊 I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Mrs Hardy

SHardy@wren.excalibur.org.uk

Don't forget to purchase a textbook - we will be using the AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS Student Book – 2nd Edition

