

Magna Academy Poole

Summer Preparation Task



A Level Psychology

Why study Psychology at Magna?

You will receive outstanding teaching from a very experienced A-level teacher, who will provide you with engaging and active learning to help you develop a true passion for the subject. With the smaller class sizes, you will receive more one-to-one support than you would from other sixth form institutions. Psychology at Magna follows the AQA specification, designed to reflect the way psychology is delivered at undergraduate level. You will become a competent and critical thinker, with the scientific skills to analyse and assess the concepts and research in psychology. As a result, by the end of the course, you will be a fluent communicator, who is able to write a concise and persuasive line of argument.

Purpose of task:

The field of psychology is vast and so this task will help you understand some of its basic building blocks. Psychologists research and develop theories on different aspects of human behaviour but there are several different approaches (or perspectives) in psychology. They all take on a slightly different focus and often disagree on the cause of any one behaviour. For example, the behaviourist approach would argue that aggression is learnt from our environment whereas the biological approach would say it's in our genes. This task will introduce you to some of these main approaches in psychology.

Task:

1. Produce an informative poster on the 6 approaches discussed in the perspectives section of the simply psychology website.

Success criteria for this task:

- **Image(s)** that represent key aspects of each approach – you can either draw them or print them off and stick them on your poster.
- **Key terms** that are fundamental to the approach (e.g. behaviourists believe **all behaviour is learnt** so I would expect to see this written on the behaviourist section of your poster).

DO NOT write whole sentences/paragraphs.

As you read through each approach select the terms that distinguish it from the other approaches and include these on your poster.

- You may want to include key individuals and/or research that has been done under this approach (e.g. **Freud** pioneered the psychodynamic approach and **Pavlov Dog's**, is a very famous piece of research done to demonstrate the behaviourist theory of classical conditioning).
 - You may want to include areas of human behaviour that the approach focuses on (e.g. biological psychology is often concerned with developing **drug treatments for mental illness** so you may want to include this in the biological section of your poster)
2. **'Outline the behaviourist approach in psychology. Compare this to the biological approach' (8 marks).** Maximum word count = 300.
 - Paragraph 1: Write a clear and concise description of the behaviourist view on human behaviour (approx. 150 words)
 - Paragraph 2: Compare it to the biological approach. i.e. how are the two approaches similar and how are they different? (approx. 150 words).

Recommended resources:

1. Type this website you're your search engine:

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/>

2. Scroll down and click on the **'perspectives'** section.
3. In this section you will find an overview of six key approaches/perspective s in psychology:
 1. Behaviourist perspective
 2. Psychodynamic perspective
 3. Humanism
 4. Cognitive psychology
 5. Biological psychology
 6. Evolutionary psychology

NOTE: Use the information here to help you complete the introductory tasks!

Deadline for Task: First lesson in the week commencing 7th September 2020

Recommended reading & activities list:

If you are able to purchase the core textbook (see 'essential resources' below) before the summer then this is a good place to start with your reading!

Alternatively, the www.simplypsychology.org website is a great resource for helping you understand some the key concepts and topics taught in psychology.

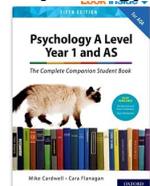
You will be learning the following topics in year 12 so feel free to research any/all of them to get a good head start: **Research methods, Psychopathology, Memory, Attachment, Social influence & biopsychology.**

Required stationary and equipment

Arch lever folder (for filing the work as it's been completed)
A4 folder (Large enough to fit a workbook and bits of classwork/homework etc. This will be the one you bring back and forth to class)
Plastic wallets (optional)
6 or 10 piece file dividers
White board pens
Black/blue pens
Green pen
Highlighters
Post-it notes (not essential)
Fine liner coloured pens for revision resources

Essential resources

Psychology A Level Year 1 and AS: The Complete Companion Student Book for AQA (Cardwell & Flanagan).



Things to consider

Many students do not realise that Psychology is actually a science. Some people label it as a social science but many universities now recognise it as a true science. It is, of course, very different from sciences such as physics and chemistry but there are many cross overs with biology. It is a research-based subject so you need to be competent in scientific enquiry. You will conduct your own research except, unlike the traditional sciences, it will be people that you experiment on! In order to analyse the data that you collect, there will be some mathematical components to the course but do not worry, it will not feel like you are studying A-level maths 😊. The research in psychology is done to test or generate theories on human behaviour so you also need to be fluent in your written communication. This is because you will write essays that assess the opposing theories in psychology. You do NOT need to be amazing (i.e. grade 7-9) at Science, English or Maths, but being fairly competent in all of them (grade 5-6) will put you in great stead for outstanding results at A-level.