

Psychology summer work – Year 12 transition 2017

Welcome to Psychology!

Summer work is a valuable exercise to prepare you for A-Level Psychology.

The first term there are 3 topics which we will study. These 3 topics will make up the majority of the Paper 1 exam.

These 3 topics are;

- 1) Social Influence including conformity and obedience
- 2) Attachment and Cognitive development
- 3) Memory – Including the Multi-Store Model (MSM) of memory, cognitive interview and Eye Witness Testimony.

TASK 1

Please access the following links and read the studies on each.

For each of the studies provided I would like you to complete:

- The Aim,
- Method,
- Results and
- Conclusion

This information is called 'A01'. It is all about describing or outlining something. This may be describing a study or a model and is usually the main theory of the topic in question.

This element of the question will begin.... AO1 = Describe, Discuss research, Identify, Outline.

TASK 2

Evaluate the study or theory of its strengths and weaknesses. This is called A03 (New Spec)

This can be further research from Psychologists who have found either similar (supporting) or different (rejecting) results. Briefly state what the finding was and then discuss whether it supports or rejects your A01 theory/research.

Once you have outlined some strengths and weaknesses you must discuss the **IMPACT** this has on the original theory which you have outlined in your A01.

For example, *“This study supports the theory because...”*

Or

“This study questions the findings of the theory because...”

For your strengths and weaknesses you may also comment on the way the research was conducted. Such as it was a lab study. The IMPACT of which means that we cannot generalise the findings to the general population as the study lacks ecological validity meaning the behaviour of the participants may have been unnatural due to the setting or context of the study.

Think about being called into the head teacher’s office. Your behaviours may alter due to the setting you’re in and the person present. This unnatural behaviour is not a true representation of your behaviour outside of the head teacher’s office. The same applies in Psychological research!

It could be that all participants are male. Therefore we could say the research is gender biased. BUT DON’T STOP THERE!!! What is the impact that this would have on the results? Do females behave in the same way? Can we generalise the findings to females? If not why not? And why is this an issue for the results?

Social Influence

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/Zimbardo.pdf> (How social roles influence behaviour)

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/milgram.html> (Obedience)

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/asch-conformity.html> (Conformity)

Memory

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/multi-store.html> (Atkinson and Shiffrin - MSM)

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/levelsofprocessing.html> (Craik and Lockhart)

Attachment

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/bowlby.html> (Bowlby - Evolutionary)

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/mary-ainsworth.html> (Ainsworth - Attachment Types)

TASK 3

Further key studies include the following which you may also wish to research.

Key Study	Topic
Miller (1956)	Capacity of STM
Baddeley (1966)	Semantic Encoding in LTM
Jacobs	Digit span
Peterson & Peterson (1959)	Duration of STM
Bahrick (1975)	Duration of LTM
Loftus et al (1978)	Misleading information
Baddeley	The working memory model
Tulving	Retrieval failure
Fisher and Gieselman	How to improve cognitive interview (x4 techniques)

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at;

LBullinaria@Carshaltonboys.org

Good Luck!

Miss L Bullin

Head of Psychology

Carshalton Boys Sports College