

Psychology Project for A level

Psychology is a discipline which is concerned with human behaviour and the ways in which people interact with each other and behave as individuals. The first part of AS Psychology starts with two topics: Memory and Social Influence which means that we will look at how memory works and why we remember some things and not others. Also how we often conform with our peers and to others as well as why we generally obey authority figures in society.

However, we must distinguish between 'common sense' ideas and the explanations put forward within the discipline of psychology so we will also be looking at research methods. In this way we need both a range of research methods as well using psychological perspectives to gather and interpret data.

There are several main theoretical perspectives in psychology:

1. Behavioural, everything is learned from experience.
2. Psychodynamic, childhood experiences and unconscious conflict dictate our behaviours.
3. Biological, all behaviour has its roots in biological processes and genes.
4. Cognitive, our minds work rather like a computer.
5. Humanistic, subjective approach - we are the controllers of our own destiny.
6. Evolutionary, we have evolved and adapted to suit the environment.

For your introductory project find out the basic ideas of each theoretical perspective and how they explain behaviour. What their main arguments are and who are the main theorists – you could also develop some evaluative points on these. Aim to write at least a side on each of the main perspectives – this should give you a head start for September.

The book we will be using and you will need to purchase is:

ISBN: 978-0-19-833864-2

Cardwell & Flanagan, (2015) Psychology A Level Year 1 and AS (for AQA).
Oxford: Oxford University Press.