

Student Name.....



Psychology

Transition Booklet
Year 11-12

Student Name.....

Pre – A Level Psychology Research Tasks:

The purpose of these tasks is to introduce you to some of the main approaches and topic areas we will be studying in Psychology in the first year. We would like you to keep this booklet in your Psychology file so that you can refer back to it at relevant points in the course.

Task 1: Research the key approaches in Psychology

Background information:

There are no real right or wrong answers in Psychology, instead different psychologists have different explanations for people's behaviour. These different views are down to the approach (or 'school of thought') that the psychologist advocates. For each of the topics you will study as part of your A Level Psychology qualification you will find that some of the main approaches have a theory relating to the topic. One unit focuses entirely on these approaches.

During your Psychology studies, you will get marked on 3 Assessment Objectives, both for work in class/independent work and during the exams. AO1 is all about your ability to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding, AO2 is all about your ability to apply your knowledge and understanding, and AO3 is all about your ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate information, ideas and evidence.

Your task:

Research 4 of the main psychological approaches which we will study in A Level Psychology. These are:

- ✓ Behaviourist Approach
- ✓ Social Learning Theory
- ✓ Cognitive Approach
- ✓ Biological Approach

For each approach you must **outline its main beliefs and key features**. Also try to include the **main strengths and limitations** of each approach – this can be done in bullet points/a summary table.

Resources:

You can use books from the library to help you with this task and you can use the internet to help you. If you're struggling to find information (although a simple google search will provide you with numerous websites) the websites below will provide you with a good starting point.

www.simplypsychology.org

www.holah.co.uk

Deadline: First Psychology lesson in September

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www.gerardkeegan.co.uk

Task 2: (Research task) Key studies in Psychology

For this task we would like you to research some landmark studies in Psychology which we will study further during the A Level course. You can find out about these studies on the internet or from any general text on Psychology in the library.

Stanley Milgram (1961/63): study of obedience

Outline/describe the study (how was it carried out?):



What were the results of the study? (which factors make obedience more or less likely?)

How could you evaluate/criticise this study?

Albert Bandura (1961/63): Bobo doll study – imitation of aggression

Outline/describe the study (how was it carried out?):



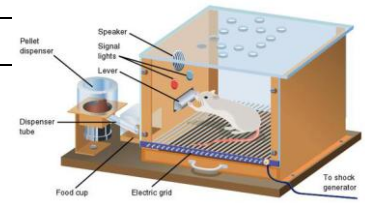
What were the results of the study?

How could you evaluate/criticise this study?

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BFSkinner (1948): Skinner box

Outline/describe the study (how was it carried out?):



What were the results of the study?

How could you evaluate/criticise this study?

Thank you for carrying out this research – please keep this document in your psychology file as you will be referring to your findings and discussing what you found out at relevant points in the course.