

A Level Psychology transition work



Welcome to A Level Psychology! This work will help you prepare for your studies in September. Your A Level Psychology course will include the following topics:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Aggression

Task 1: Key Psychological Studies

Use the links provided to read about each study. For **each of the four studies**, write a summary of **100–150 words** including:

- **Background and Aim** (What was the researcher studying?)
- **Method** (How was the study carried out? Who were the participants?)
- **Results** (What did the study find? You can include a graph if you wish but be sure to explain it.)
- **Conclusion** (What do the findings suggest?)

This type of information is called **Assessment Objective 1 (AO1)** — this means you are describing or outlining something (a study, theory, or model). You may see questions that start with: '*Describe*', '*Identify*', '*Outline*'

a) <https://simplypsychology.org/milgram.html> - Milgram

b) <https://www.simplypsychology.org/harlow-monkey.html> – Harlow

c) <https://www.simplypsychology.org/loftus-palmer.html> - Loftus and Palmer

d) <https://www.simplypsychology.org/mary-ainsworth.html> - Ainsworth

Task 2: Ethical Issues in Psychology

Read through the BPS (British Psychological Society) Code of Human Research Ethics using the link below.

Summarise each of the following ethical principles:

- Informed consent
- Deception
- Debriefing
- Right to withdraw
- Anonymity and confidentiality
- Protection of participants

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/ethics-and-psychology>

Task 3: Applying Ethical Issues to the Studies

For each of the four studies you summarised in Task 1, explain whether or not each of the BPS's ethical guidelines (listed in Task 2) was followed.

You may wish to do some further research online to help you complete this.

Task 4: The Main Approaches in Psychology

There are several key approaches in psychology. Each approach explains behaviour in a different way, often using different types of research methods.

Use the links below to read about each approach. For each one, write a short summary explaining the **main assumptions** (i.e. how the approach explains behaviour).

1. <https://www.simplypsychology.org/cognitive.html> – The cognitive approach
2. <https://www.simplypsychology.org/biological-psychology.html> – The biological approach
3. <https://www.simplypsychology.org/behaviorism.html> – The behaviourist approach
4. <https://www.simplypsychology.org/bandura.html> – Social learning theory

PSYCHOLOGY RESOURCES & WIDER READING/WATCHING

Films & Documentaries:

Clinical Psychology & Mental Health

- BBC Explorations, Primal Fear (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzNSYw7xwpU>)
- BBC 3: Extreme OCD camp (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAXjq28Wpyk>)

Social Influence

- BBC Radio 4: Solomon Asch- Conformity:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00f8mzr>
- Experimenter (2015): <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3726704/>
- ABC Channel: Milgram Experiment remake
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnYUI6wIBF4&list=PL7B12D4D99E4FCC8B>)

Memory

- A series of videos on Working Memory Model: (<http://gocognitive.net/interviews/alan-baddeley-working-memory>)
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- https://www.ted.com/talks/elizabeth_loftus_the_fiction_of_memory
- https://www.ted.com/talks/ben_ambridge_9_myths_about_psychology_debunked
- https://www.ted.com/talks/scott_fraser_the_problem_with_eyewitness_testimony