

Psychology – ‘A’ Level Summer Preparation Activity

Different students will be approaching this task from a range of different backgrounds in terms of your knowledge of Psychology. We have therefore tried to give the summer preparation for A Level Psychology a structure which does give you some clear starting points and guidance but accept that different students will approach and complete the tasks in different ways, partly reflecting your own interests and background in Psychology. This diversity and ownership is in fact to be valued – A level work should give you increasingly greater scope to take control of your work and to manage your own progress.

Task 1 : ‘What is Psychology’

Use the information from the British Psychological Society website and elsewhere if you choose to write a short introductory report with the title ‘What is Psychology’ . This should be about 500 words in length and should be aimed at a target audience of parents or guardians of a year 12 student who has not studied Psychology, giving them a summary of the nature and scope of the subject. You may include some indications of the ways in which Psychology may be applied – such as careers in Psychology. Please do not just copy and paste information from the web sites. But this site may help,

<https://www.bps.org.uk/public/what-is-psychology>

Task 2 : ‘How does Psychology work?’

Focusing on Psychology Tests and experiments. There are a number of these and they can only provide a small sample of the way in which Psychologists carry out research. Select a small sample of these tests (1 or 2 perhaps) and for each one selected try to summarise the method which is used. This should be for a target audience of other year 12 students and should aim to as far as possible identify the procedures, materials, and ways of interpreting the results used in the test. For this if you cannot find a new piece of research go to the stroop test.

<http://www.math.unt.edu/~tam/SelfTests/StroopEffects.html>

Task 3 : ‘Who am I ?’

To be fair, the title here may be a bit over the top ! I think that we really mean ‘what are some aspects of my personality and abilities ?’. Again, still using the BBC site, carry out a selected number of the Psychology tests and use the results to write a brief ‘personality assessment’ of you –some aspects of your personality, abilities and approach. You may as an alternative be able to invite or persuade someone that you know to carry out these tests and write a brief report about them instead. The target audience for this is your future A level teacher.

<https://similar minds.com/ey senck.html>

NOTE : In all Psychological research it is important to be aware of any potential ethical issues associated with the research. In this case all of the Psychological tests are publically available on line, and so there should be no significant ethical issues. However, in the case of both yourself or anyone else with whom you work on this task please be aware that there may be aspects of your or their personality or abilities which they may wish to keep confidential and it will be important to respect this.