

A Level Psychology Introduction



This research based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for your A Level Psychology course. Research and complete the tasks independently over the summer to get a head start and prepare for some of the key topics within AS (Year one A Level) Psychology. Present the tasks in any format you like and bring it with you to your first lesson after the summer.

Good luck and Enjoy ☺

The Psychology Team

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Task 1, Topic 1: Marvellous Memory...

Mini Experiment:

In this experiment you can test as many or as little people as you like. As the experimenter you should read out one line at a time of the triangle of numbers below to your participant. When you have finished reading out the line, your participant should recite back to you as many of the numbers they can remember. So for the first line you would say '6' and your participant would repeat '6' and so on as you move down the triangle. **Record how many numbers they recall correctly on each line.**

6	<p><i>Now think about and explain:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the maximum amount of numbers your participants could recall from any line? (If you used more than one participant, take the average). 2. What do your results suggest about memory? E.g. is it limited?
27 35	
10 28 22	
38 46 10 11	
52 8 19 81 17	
55 38 29 13 8 71	
75 17 20 61 82 5 12	
61 38 17 40 49 84 57 8	
71 22 31 89 47 5 1 16 94	
18 95 48 30 89 67 18 11 15 17	
76 83 40 28 25 12 15 53 95 49 20	
16 9 11 17 49 50 28 69 24 53 78 10	
77 53 49 76 19 94 87 64 23 19 15 51 2	
78 56 34 19 27 20 80 42 38 64 29 10 79 31	

Now research and answer the following

- 1) What is memory? Does it have different types? If so, explain them...
- 2) What is the **capacity** and **duration** of the average memory in humans?
- 3) What did George Miller do in 1956? What did he discover about memory? How does this link to the results from your experiment above?

Task 2, Topic 2: Research Methods

A Very Unethical Study

A psychologist carried out an experiment to investigate the effect of **hunger** on **memory**. His hypothesis was that hunger will decrease memory. He collected 50 participants through an advert in the local newspaper. The advert is shown below:

**Volunteers wanted – important
psychological experiment**
STUDY ON MEMORY
Participants will be required to carry out a variety
of memory activities.
The study involves a 5 day stay at the lab, all
expenses paid
Participants will be compensated £50 for their time
Contact: RMB@psychologyresearch.com

Participants arrived at the lab at 10am on the first day and were given breakfast. They then had to take part in the memory tests. Participants were then told they would not be given lunch or dinner, and that they were not to eat anything until 10am the next day. Any food they had brought was confiscated.

At 10am the next day participants completed further memory tasks, before being given breakfast again. This process continued across the five days.

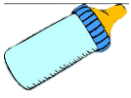
At one point, a young woman complained of feeling ill and shaky due to not having eaten. She asked if she could finish the experiment early. Researchers told her that it would ruin the whole experiment if she were to leave, and that she was now committed to it. They told her that the benefits of the research would outweigh any discomfort she was feeling, and that she had a duty to continue.

Research the meaning of the following ethical issues and explain how they relate to the unethical study above:

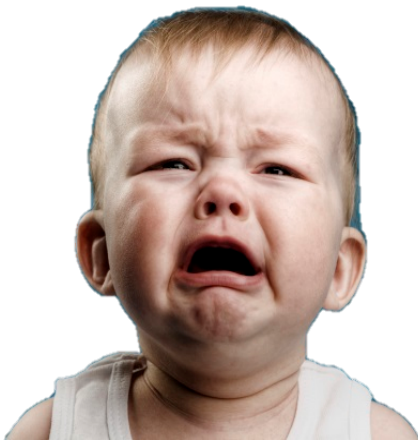
- **Protection from harm**
- **deception**
- **confidentiality**
- **informed consent**
- **right to withdraw**
- **anonymity and debrief.**

Link: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/Ethics.html>

Task 3, Topic 3: Attachment



Babies, Babies, Babies...



Research and answer the following:

From a Psychological Perspective...

Why do babies cry all of the time?

Useful Link:

http://www.babycenter.com/2_creating-an-attachment-with-your-baby_10350318.bc

“Oh, oobee doo I wanna be like you...”



Consider, research and answer the following:

Mowgli, the main character in the Jungle Book, is brought up by a pack of wolves and then left to fend for himself in the jungle. From a Psychological point of view, why should Mowgli **not** survive in the Jungle?

Hint: Try researching the work of the psychologist **John Bowlby** and link to your answer...

Useful Resources & Further Reading

To help you on your way...

Websites:

- **Youtube** have a number of really good factual clips. In particular 'Crash Course' have produced a number of introductory videos to key elements in Psychology.
- <http://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html> - has all the relevant key information for A Level Psychology.
- <http://www.psychteacher.co.uk/> - Tailored to the old specification but contains key information for A Level Psychology.

Books:

- **Working Memory, Thought and Action** – Alan Baddeley
- **The Lucifer Effect** – Phillip Zimbardo
- **Obedience to Authority** – Stanley Milgram
- **Fundamentals of Cognition** – Michael Eysenck
- **Psychology: The Science of the Mind and Behaviour** – Richard Gross
- **The Complete Companions: AQA Psychology Year 1 and AS Student Book** – Mike Cardwell & Cara Flanagan
- **AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS Student Book** – Cara Flanagan & Dave Berry