

# Psychology

## Year 12 Summer Task

Welcome to Psychology at St Peter's. The purpose of this booklet is to introduce you to the subject that you have chosen to study with us in year 12.

The Social Sciences department aims to develop your skills in critical analysis of research into how people behave, as well as allowing you to conduct your own investigations. Psychology helps you to understand why you behave the way you do, as well as those around you!

**In Year 12 you will study 'A level' Paper 1 content which includes:**

### **Social and Cognitive Approaches**

- *The Social Approach*- how our behaviour is influenced by the presence, attitudes and actions of other people in particular looking at prejudice and obedience.
- *The Cognitive Approach*- how your memory works and what happens in dementia.

### **Biological and Learning Approaches**

- *The Biological Approach*- The role of the central nervous system, neurotransmitters and the structure of the brain. The role of brain structure evolution and hormones in explaining aggression. What happens in addiction?
- *The Learning Approach*- how our behaviour is determined by the experiences we have had in our lives. That we learn responses to stimuli and observe the behaviour of role models then imitate them.
- **Issues and Debates** where we look at discussions that have questioned how psychology explains certain key problems such as whether crime is nature or nurture.

In order that you are prepared for your studies next year please also have the following items ready for the start of term.

- A folder and dividers (which will be essential for organising the course notes, your additional notes, homework and assessments)
- A4 pad of lined paper
- Pencil Case with pens, highlighters and 'post-it' notes
- A calculator which you will need for your exam

You will be required to purchase four psychology 'work packs' (£5) and the course textbook: Edexcel for A level Year 1 and AS Psychology ISBN: 9781911208594

## Preparatory tasks

Successful study in the sixth form is all about being prepared, self-motivated, and developing the right skills such as independent learning. We will make every effort to support you in your learning and would like you to do the same.

In preparation for the first term of study please spend some time on the tasks below so that when you arrive with us in September you can make the best possible start to your studies.

### TASK 1

#### Background

In psychology we are constantly trying to explain the behaviour of other people as well as our own. One theory which is very useful for this is **social identity theory**. We all have a **personal identity** which is made up of our personal characteristics and self-esteem. We also think of ourselves in terms of the groups we belong to which is our **social identity**. Henri Tajfel was a researcher who investigated this. His theory states that we put ourselves into groups which become our 'in-group' and immediately see our group as special and superior to those in the 'out group'. He showed that in group favouritism always happened even if the groups were formed at random. The effect is even stronger if there is a religious, political or ethnic reason for the difference.

For the group to form there are several stages:

First the group must have an identity or label which is called **social categorisation**. We categorize people in order to understand them and identify them. We use social categories like black, white, Chinese, Christian, gay, student, and teacher because they are useful.

Next the group adopts the identity of the group we have categorized ourselves as belonging to. If for example you have categorized yourself as a student, the chances are you will adopt the identity of a student and begin to act in the ways you believe students act (and conform to the norms of the group). There will be an emotional significance to your identification with a group, and your self-esteem will become bound up with group membership. This is called **social identification**.

Finally comes **social comparison**. Once we have categorized ourselves as part of a group and have identified with that group we then tend to compare that group with other groups. If our self-esteem is to be maintained our group needs to compare favourably with other groups.

**After the 2016 national vote for Britain to leave the EU, there has been divisions and even name calling between those who voted to 'remain' and those who voted to 'leave'.**

**Using the information above, try and explain why these divisions have occurred after the Brexit vote. Think about the group behaviour that occurs and apply the theory above stage by stage. [8 marks]**

**You should write approximately 500-800 words. Feel free to do more reading and use other theories you might come across to demonstrate your interest in the subject. This will be handed in and marked in September.**

## **Task 2**

Start a glossary of terms which will be used in the first topic. You will need to look up the definitions. Make sure you use the psychological rather than general definition.

Keep the sheets safe- you will file them in your first work pack.

- Theory
- Methodology
- Hypothetico-deductive method
- Hypothesis
- Abstract
- Peer review
- Reductionism
- Empiricism
- Objectivity
- Control
- Variable
- Qualitative data
- Quantitative data
- Social influence
- Confederate
- Autonomy
- Moral strain
- Stereotype
- Discrimination
- Anti-semitism

## Mark scheme for summer task

Band 1	0-2 marks	Task incomplete and no use is made of the psychology provided. The answer lacks coherence and substance.
Band 2	3-4 marks	The answer is basic and accurate, some terms are used correctly but the answer shows a superficial understanding with little depth.
Band 3	5-6 marks	A good answer which uses all the material provided in a sensible answer which is clear and well written. It has been applied to the scenario at least once.
Band 4	7-8 marks	The answer shows excellent understanding. All the terms in social identity theory are applied correctly to the scenario more than once. Hardly any SPAG errors. The answer shows depth and may go further than the material provided.

**Enjoy the summer.**

**We look forward to working with you in  
Year 12.**