

**Subject:** *A-Level Psychology*

**Exam Board:** *EDUQAS*





Welcome to A-level Psychology. We are delighted that you are considering A-level Psychology as an option in Year 12. To demonstrate your commitment to the course and to prepare you for September, you must complete the following tasks to the best of your ability. These tasks are compulsory and must be completed prior to your first Psychology lesson in Year 12.

We expect you spend at least 3 hours completing the tasks outlined in this pack. The activities have been designed to help you begin to develop some of the key skills you will need for A-level Psychology.

**Learning Objectives:**

- To develop a basic understanding of the kinds of areas that Psychologists debate and to include your own thoughts on the debate to facilitate a discussion in lesson one.
- To use your mathematical skills to analyse data from a piece of psychological research.
- To research about Wundt & introspection.
- To consider how best to make notes that will help you learn.

**Contacts for Support:**

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*What is Psychology?*



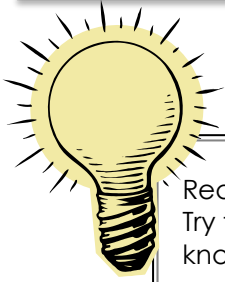
Many people when they hear the word psychology think of mental illness and abnormal behaviour. But psychologists are not concerned with extreme case of human behaviour, they also investigate very ordinary behaviour such as child rearing, memory, how to make friends, sleeping and dreaming.

Psychology can therefore be defined as the scientific study of human behaviour and experience. Psychology aims to describe, explain, predict and modify behaviour.

Psychology is a fascinating subject not least because it's about you and me and everyone around us. It could be suggested that each of us in our own unique way is a psychologist because we all try to explain the behaviour of other people. The A-level Psychology course asks a range of questions about human behaviour:

- **Why do we think in the ways that we do?**
- **Why do we feel in the ways that we do?**
- **Why do we act in the ways that we do?**
- **What are the different techniques that psychologists have used to study our thinking, feeling and action?**





**Task 1: What is Psychology?**

Read the following ten statements and write down your own answers to them. Try to explain why you have given the answer you have. You can use your own knowledge, personal opinions or experiences to help to support your answers.

**1. Does watching violent TV programmes make children more aggressive?**

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**2. Would you remember more details from witnessing a bank robbery or from a school lesson? Explain your answer.**

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**3. Why did a large majority of Nazi soldiers obey orders?**

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**4. What is happiness?**

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**5. Why are so many people scared of spiders?**

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*Opportunity Progress Individuality*

6. Are we born with a fixed amount of intelligence or do we develop our level of intelligence as we grow older? Explain your answer.

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7. Why do we dream?

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8. Would brain surgery be a suitable way of dealing with criminals?

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9. What is the best way to break a drug dependency habit?

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10. Does a person's relationship(s) with their parent(s) influence their future relationships?

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*Complete the activities above and bring to your first lesson in  
Psychology.*



## Task 2: Analysing Data Task

Planning and conducting research plays an important role in Psychology.

Psychologists need to be able to analyse the data they collect so using mathematical skills are essential.

Read the following information about a study and answer the questions that follow.

A psychology wanted to find out whether people learn better by **rehearsal** or by the **learn-then-test** method:

- **Rehearsal Condition** – The psychologist asked five people to read a list of twenty words 5 times out loud as a method of rehearsal. This was completed individually.
- **Learn then Test Condition** – The psychologists asked five different people to read the same list of twenty words once.

After this the people were asked to write down as many words as they could recall in any order.

The number of words recalled by each participant is in the table below:

Condition One: Rehearsal then test		Condition Two: Learn then Test	
Participant Number	Score (out of 20)	Participant Number	Score (out of 20)
1	18	1	12
2	14	2	11
3	18	3	12
4	16	4	14
5	18	5	10

*Complete the activities on the next two sheets and hand in to your Psychology teacher.*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Task 2: Analysing Data Task*

1. Complete the table below:

	Definition or Explanation of how to calculate	Condition One: Rehearsal then Test	Condition Two: Learn then Test
Mean			
Median			
Mode			
Range			

2. Draw a bar chart to show the means for each condition in the space below:

3. What conclusion(s) can you draw from these results?

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. On the basis of the findings above - What advice would you give to sixth formers who are revising for their assessments?

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### *Task 3: Wundt & Introspection*



<https://www.simplypsychology.org/wundt.html>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/wundts-contribution-to-psychology>

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/william-wundts-explanation-of-introspection.html>

Read the above articles/ watch the video. Use the space below to make notes on who was Wilhelm Wundt? What did he do that's important in Psychology? What is introspection?

Think about **HOW** you make your notes. How do you identify the key things or terminology in your notes? Do you use headings? Pictures? Diagrams?