

Subject	Psychology A Level																								
Context / relevance	<p>The following tasks will introduce you to the main approaches to explaining human behaviour and thinking. You will find out about six different perspectives that explain why people are the way we are and use this to explain the behaviour of a person of your choice.</p> <p>In addition, you will become familiar with some research methods key vocabulary that is essential for the whole course.</p>																								
Securing	<p><b>Key vocabulary</b> Learn the following key vocabulary and definitions for research methods. You will refer to all of these terms regularly throughout the course, and it is really important that you have a good understanding of them from the outset.</p> <p>We recommend that you make a set of flash cards and test yourself several times to aid familiarity.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="384 801 1374 1962"> <tr> <td>Experiment</td><td>A researcher manipulates an independent variable (has two groups with one difference) to see what effect it has on a dependent variable. This shows cause-and-effect.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Independent variable (IV)</td><td>The different conditions in the experiment. If the IV is whether there is music playing or not, there would be two levels of the IV.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dependent variable (DV)</td><td>What the researcher measures (the data collected)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Correlation</td><td>A mathematical technique in which a researcher investigates the strength of a relationship between two co-variables (presented in a scattergram)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Co-variables</td><td>The variables investigated in a correlation, e.g. height and weight. Finding an association between these two things does not show cause-and-effect.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Observation</td><td>Watching and recording behaviour of participants, e.g. counting how often a target behaviour is performed.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Self-report techniques</td><td>A method in which a person is asked to state or explain their thoughts, feelings and opinions on a topic (commonly questionnaire and interview)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hypothesis</td><td>A clear, precise and testable statement about the relationship between variables to be investigated.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Demand characteristics</td><td>Any cue/clue from the researcher that may be interpreted by the participant as giving an idea of what the research is about, which affects their behaviour</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reliability</td><td>A measure of consistency, e.g. the extent to which when a test is repeated the same result is gained.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Validity</td><td>A measure of accuracy. The extent to which findings of research give a legitimate reflection of what is actually 'out there' in the real world.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ethical issues</td><td>When there is a conflict between the rights of the participants in research and the goals of the research to produce valid and worthwhile findings.</td></tr> </table>	Experiment	A researcher manipulates an independent variable (has two groups with one difference) to see what effect it has on a dependent variable. This shows cause-and-effect.	Independent variable (IV)	The different conditions in the experiment. If the IV is whether there is music playing or not, there would be two levels of the IV.	Dependent variable (DV)	What the researcher measures (the data collected)	Correlation	A mathematical technique in which a researcher investigates the strength of a relationship between two co-variables (presented in a scattergram)	Co-variables	The variables investigated in a correlation, e.g. height and weight. Finding an association between these two things does not show cause-and-effect.	Observation	Watching and recording behaviour of participants, e.g. counting how often a target behaviour is performed.	Self-report techniques	A method in which a person is asked to state or explain their thoughts, feelings and opinions on a topic (commonly questionnaire and interview)	Hypothesis	A clear, precise and testable statement about the relationship between variables to be investigated.	Demand characteristics	Any cue/clue from the researcher that may be interpreted by the participant as giving an idea of what the research is about, which affects their behaviour	Reliability	A measure of consistency, e.g. the extent to which when a test is repeated the same result is gained.	Validity	A measure of accuracy. The extent to which findings of research give a legitimate reflection of what is actually 'out there' in the real world.	Ethical issues	When there is a conflict between the rights of the participants in research and the goals of the research to produce valid and worthwhile findings.
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Processing	<p>Examining psychological approaches</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read the short information sheet about the six approaches in psychology and conduct your own reading to develop your understanding further. For each approach you need to identify two things that they argue causes human behaviour and thinking.</li> </ol> <p>Follow this structure:  <i>XXXX approach argues behaviour is a result of....</i>  <i>In addition, they also argue that....</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. For each approach identify one strength and one limitation of this viewpoint? E.g. Is it scientific? Is it based on research?</li> <li>3. From your initial reading, which approach do you think is the most valid? Explain why.</li> <li>4. Use the sheet to make a profile of a celebrity / fictional character / family member / criminal of your choice. Identify the types of behaviour they have engaged in and use each approach to explain it.</li> </ol>
Exploring	<p>a) Watch the documentary 'The brain: A secret history' episode 2 Part 1 <a href="https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6cifd6">https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6cifd6</a> and part 2 <a href="https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6cifc4">https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6cifc4</a></p> <p>This is the second in a three-part series in which Michael Mosley explores the history of experimental psychology (I highly recommend the whole series).</p> <p>This part focuses on our emotions. He looks at by JB Watson, Harry Harlow, Albert Bandura and visits Christian Keyser who scans his brain. Justify which approach each person is working within and summarise how they each approach the study of psychology?</p>
Reviewing	<p>What have you learned, and what do you want to know?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write down 5 things that you have learned</li> <li>2. Write down 5 things that you want to find out about / explore further in psychology</li> </ol>