

Welcome to Psychology!

Psychology is one of the most popular courses at key stage 5 and there are many benefits to studying this subject however it is very demanding and the decision to study this should not be taken lightly.

How willing are you to work? The following is your first test. This summer project will introduce you to a few interesting areas of the A-level and you will need to bring the completed project with you to your first psychology lesson. Failure to do so will result in you not being able to attend the lessons.

The project involves three things and whilst the tasks are simple enough, you may need to do some additional research to understand some of the terms that have been used. We are looking for quality rather than quantity. These tasks also represent a range of skills and knowledge we would expect you to develop over the course. Please ensure you do all 3 of the tasks – there is no reason any should be incomplete by the time your course starts in September.

Task 1:

Look up the experiment by **Stanley Milgram** (which involved giving people electric shocks). There is plenty of material on the internet. Once you have read and understood the basic experiment write a piece (max 1000 words) as if you were one of the 'real' participants – imagine what it was like, how did you feel? Note that you will need to read the material carefully to understand all aspects of the study (including the 'debrief'). You can be an obedient OR disobedient participant.

Task 2:

Conduct and write up your own memory experiment.

1. Write a **hypothesis** (a prediction) for the experiment.
2. Complete the **table of results**.
3. Display your results in a **graph**. This graph should help us see if the words at the start of the list were more easily remembered than the words at the end of the list.
4. Write up your **findings**. What do the findings suggest about human memory? Why do people remember words at the start of the list and end of the list?
5. **Evaluate** your experiment – Was there an issue with the word list that might mean the collected results are not correct? Is there an alternative explanation for your findings? What could be improved?

We are going to test the primacy and recency effect. This theory suggests that we remember words at the start of a list and at the end of a list, but those words in the middle are least remembered.

Ask at least 10 participants to remember the following 20 words (in the table). You must read them out about a word a second, one after another in the order provided, until the entire list has been read out. This should be done at about a word a second.

After you have finished reading the list participants must write down as many words as they can remember from the list.

Words	Recalled
Girls	
Shut	
Suit	
Delay	
Roasted	
Repulsive	
Cooperative	
Request	
Selfish	
Stupid	
Hypnotize	
Numberless	
Selfish	
Convict	
Nip	
Grip	
Bizarre	
Greet	
Coil	
Rate	

Task 3:

Read the academic article by 2 Psychologists – Watson and Raynor which can be found on this website page– the task is to condense down the information and summarise this in no more than 350 words – this can be quite difficult as you will need to decide what is the most important information and what parts you do not need!

Mrs N Knight – Head of Social Sciences.
Mr Harrison – Psychology teacher

[If you do need help with these projects you can email Mrs Knight at college Nicola.knight@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk or Mr Harrison at luke.harrison@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk]