

A Level summer transition project

Psychology

The project is in two parts:

- 1) Researching an “Approach to Psychology”
- 2) An Investigation into the role of either Context or State on Memory

Researching an” Approach to Psychology” (approx. 400 words)

There are several different ways in which psychologists attempt to explain the workings of brain and mind. You are expected to research any **one** of the following approaches to psychology and to summarise it in **less than** 100 words. You are also asked to provide detail on a study which utilises this approach.

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Potential studies</u>
Biological	Any genetic study of OCD (such as Lewis 1936)
Cognitive	Research to support Beck’s Theory of Depression (e.g. Grazioli 2000)
Behaviourist	Pavlov’s dogs or the Skinner box
Psychodynamic (Freud) faint hearted!	“Little Hans” - a bit odd and not for the faint hearted!

For the study you are expected to include the following sections, APFCC -

Aim	What were they hoping to discover?
Procedures	How did they do it? Who did they use?
Findings	What were the results of the study?
Conclusions	What do the findings tell us?
Criticisms	Can we trust the study? Was there a fundamental flaw in how the research was conducted? Were the results valid or reliable?

The study should cover approximately one side of A4. Your research will provide the basis of your first psychology lesson and it is therefore imperative that you bring a **hard copy** with you to the lesson. The internet will provide most of the resources you need and you may find <http://www.psychology4a.com/approaches.html> particularly useful.

Part 2 - An Investigation into the role of either Context or State on Memory (Max. 1000 words)

Introduction

In your introduction, you must explain what is meant by either Context- or State-Dependent Memory and what research exists in this area. Start by using any A-Level Psychology textbooks, and if you use the internet, consider the reliability of the sources you use.

Design

Next, it is down to you to devise a piece of research to test either Context- or State-Dependent Memory and for this you will need to address the following:

- What participants will you use and how will you select them?
- What will you change? (Independent Variable)
- What will you measure? (Dependent Variable) • What will you control? (Extraneous Variables)
- How will you ensure reliability?
- How will you ensure validity?

Organise your writing under these headings – you'll find the design much easier to write this way. This task will require research so that you fully understand the meaning of these scientific words and use them with confidence in the report. A final, concluding paragraph should also evaluate your design. Consider ways in which the investigation might be biased inaccurate, unreliable or invalid.

Who to contact if you should require further assistance

Miss L Geary lgeary@glossopdale.school