



A Level Psychology Transition Pack

OCR Psychology A Level

The following tasks will help you to prepare for your psychology course. Remember that all work needs to be in your own words, and you need to add a list at the end of any sources (e.g. websites) that you have used.

Task 1:

<https://www.coursehero.com/study-guides/wmopen-psychology/outcome-parts-of-the-brain/>

1. Explain the two hemispheres of the brain, lateralization and plasticity
2. Outline the specific lobes of the brain and explain their role and function.
3. Who was Phineas Gage? What happened to him? How was his behaviour apparently changed?

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

<https://digest.bps.org.uk/>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/mind/> (archived page)

Task 2:

Psychology is a new subject for most people. Write a short definition (no more than 25 words) to describe what it is. You may already know this, if not use the links above or your own research to help you.

Task 3:

Choose one of:

- Pavlov's Dog (classical conditioning)
- Skinner's Rats or pigeons (operant conditioning)
- Watson's Little Albert experiment (Classical conditioning).

Write down the aim, procedure, findings and conclusion.

Task 4:

Psychology is organised into a number of diverse areas. Research and summarise what you have found about the areas below that we will be studying:

- Social Area
- Cognitive Area
- Developmental Area
- Biological Area
- Individual Differences area
- Mental Health
- Child Psychology
- Criminal Psychology

Task 5:

One of the topics that you will be assessed on is Research Methods. You will also be expected to apply this knowledge across the range of studies that you cover. In order to help you with this, write a glossary of the following terms and find at least one strength and one weakness of each method.

- Laboratory experiment
- Field experiment
- Natural experiment
- Quasi experiment
- Naturalistic observation
- Controlled observation
- Covert observation
- Overt observation
- Participant observation
- Non-participant observation
- Self-report techniques
- Questionnaire
- Structured interview
- Unstructured interview
- Correlation

If you have any questions please email Ms Thatcher
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