

## **Preparation for Psychology**

Congratulations on joining the A level Psychology course. Before the start of term in September there is some preparatory work you need to complete. This will take about 3 hours in total and will be researched based. You will be expected to produce evidence of the work in the **first session** in September. Your suitability for the course and attitude to independent learning will be assessed using the work produced. We hope you enjoy.

### **Activity 1:**

Research the following famous studies each one is taken from a different area of psychology. Make a note of what they did AND what they found.

- Social Psychology: Milgram's shock experiment (1963)
- Cognitive Psychology: Loftus & Palmer's car crash experiment (1974)
- Developmental Psychology: Bandura et al (1961) Transmission of aggression
- Biological Psychology: Sperry (1968) Split brain study
- Individual Differences: Freud (1909) Little Hans

### **Activity 2:**

You are asked to **design** an experiment. Use this link <https://www.verywellmind.com/psychology-experiment-ideas-2795669> to find a list of potential experiment ideas. The first one is done below. When you pick your idea create an experimental write-up (no more than 2 pages) including the following components. Remember you are not being asked to conduct the research, just to plan it.

- Aim
- Hypothesis
- Variables ( IV, DV and control)
- Sample ( Who will be involved, how they will be selected)
- Standardised instructions
- Say how the experiment will be kept ethical

### **Here is an example to help you**

AIM: To investigate if colours impact mood.

HYPOTHESIS: There will be a difference in the moods of people who spend 1 hour in a room coloured red, compared to people who spend 1 hour in a room coloured blue.

VARIABLES:

Independent – the colour of the room – Blue or Red

Dependent – the score of the participant on a mood rating questionnaire

Control – the tasks set while in the room, the time of day and amount of time spent in the room, the number of people in the room, the temperature and volume in the room

SAMPLE: 40 year 12 Psychology students split into two classes of 20. This will be an opportunity sample of students coming into their normal lessons.

STANDARDISED INSTRUCTIONS: (to be given at the end of the lesson) This is a psychology experiment to measure the impact of colour on mood. You have spent the lesson surrounded by a colour. Please now complete the mood-rating questionnaire honestly and hand it in. You do not need to justify your answers or show anyone else what you have put. When you are done, please hand your questionnaire to your teacher, then you may go. If you need any assistance with the questionnaire, please raise your hand. If you think there are any large factors impacting your mood today outside of this lesson, please do not complete a questionnaire as this could bias the results. Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. If you have any questions at the end, please wait until everyone has finished.

STATEMENT OF HOW THE STUDY WILL BE KEPT ETHICAL: All participants will be asked for general consent before the study takes place acknowledging their right to withdraw and ask questions. All will be given a standard lesson, there should be nothing to cause undue stress or alarm. All students will be given the same instructions and offered the chance to withdraw their data up to the point of handing it in at the end. All questionnaires will be kept anonymous but completed in blue or red ink depending on the class.