

Psychology revision support

- Understand the types of questions on the assessments for Psychology GCSE
- Learn some practical activities that you can do with your Year 11s

Units in this course:

Unit 1 – Memory, Personality, Stereotypes, Non-verbal communication, Research methods

Unit 2 – Social Influence, Sex and Gender, Aggression, Learning, Research methods

How the course is assessed

2 exam papers – Unit 1 and Unit 2 (each 1.5 hours)

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes and procedures.
- AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes and procedures.
- AO3: Analyse and evaluate psychological information, ideas, processes and procedures to make judgements and draw conclusions.

Types of exam questions

Type 1 – Define a word

Explain the meaning of a term used in psychology.

Question 1a. Usually 2 marks.

They are looking for:

- Specific words or phrases

You can help by:

- Quick verbal questions ‘What does conformity mean?’
- Giving feedback ‘The booklet uses the word...’ ‘Can you expand on that?’

Types of exam questions

Type 2 – Remember a study

Example question supplied.

Students need to describe the correct study.

They are looking for:

- Aim, Method, Results, Conclusion or some combination of these
- Conclusion must refer to results and not be the same as the aim
- Enough detail to show the student has fully understood the method but doesn't need names of researchers or percentages.

You can help by:

- Quick verbal questions 'What were the results of Asch's study on conformity?'
- Helping mark exam questions using the mark scheme – have they used an appropriate conclusion/aim?

Types of exam questions

Type 3 – Design a study

Question 2b (ii) Students have to design a study themselves

They are looking for:

- Details of HOW the study would be carried out (what will participants do?)
- What are the CONDITIONS (differences between the groups tested)?
- How it will be measured (must be possible)

You can help by:

- Asking your child to tell you/write down how they would test theories/explanations e.g. Design a study to find out about... bystander intervention (use booklets to help you with this)
- Can be the same as a study that already exists – recall of key studies and which topic they relate to

Types of exam questions

Type 4 – Evaluate a study/ group of studies

Question 4c

They are looking for:

- If 'evaluation': Strengths and weaknesses of the studies carried out
- If 'criticism' – Weaknesses of studies carried out
- If 3 marks – two ideas with one explained in more detail
- If 4 marks – two ideas both explained in detail

You can help by:

- Verbal questions – how would you evaluate this study? How would you extend your evaluation?
- Some evaluations can be used for a lot of studies – sitting with your child to come up with a list of 'general' evaluations that can be used on lots of studies

Types of exam questions

Type 5 – Evaluate a theory/method/way of...

Question 4(d)

Different from evaluation a study as it is asking the student to evaluate the ideas, not the process of testing the ideas.

They are looking for:

- Strengths (application) of the theory, for example, it can be used for...
- Weaknesses of the theory, for example, it doesn't explain...

You can help by:

- Students often end up evaluating the study and losing marks as they haven't evaluated the THEORY. Reminding them they CAN do this as long as they say 'This theory is based on research that...'

Types of exam questions

Type 6 – Refer to the article/conversation

Question 3 (c)

Students need to use the given text in their answer

They are looking for:

- An explanation with some detail
- Direct quotes from the text given.

You can help by:

- Helping mark exam questions with your child and checking they have used direct quotes.

Types of exam questions

Type 7 – Refer to the article/conversation

Question 3 (c)

Students need to use the given text in their answer

They are looking for:

- An explanation with some detail
- Direct quotes from the text given.

You can help by:

- Helping mark exam questions with your child and checking they have used direct quotes.

Ways to revise

- Complete exam questions and use mark schemes to mark them (AQA website)
- Flashcards with questions on one side and answers on the other. Use to test knowledge.
- Mindmaps detailing key information. Colour coded to show studies, theories/explanations, evaluation
- Verbally questioning using resources created by students or booklets
- They teach you

Where to find out more...

AQA website – GCSE Psychology (old spec, 4180)

Email me

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Make sure students come to revision before the exam:

Saturday 19th May and Saturday 2nd June (9am)

Monday lunch break (J11)