

## 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. This year we have a brand new specification which will be a challenge for both me and the students. The students A Level grade will come from sitting 3 exams at the end of year 2 and this format probably the biggest change that has been made by the government.

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:

Look up the case study of '**Genie**', a little girl who survived the most appalling situation at home. Her life was not much better even when she was rescued by the Los Angeles Children's Hospital! Once you have read about the case, construct a short questionnaire (10 questions) that you would ask her if you were able to interview her. You don't need to provide her answers, just the questions. Will you ask 'open' or 'closed' questions? You'll need to find out about these. Present the questionnaire ready to give to her – in other words it should have an introduction which will be about you and any other information that you might think appropriate (considering what she has been through). Think about it.

### **Task 3:**

In this task you need to collect some real data from real participants. You will be required to do an observation of people in their cars. Stand (somewhere safe) near a busy set of traffic lights and record whether people go through the traffic lights when they are on amber. Your task is to record the data for males and females and to see which gender takes the most risks (goes through the lights when they are on amber).

Once you have collected your data, write up a short description of where it took place and at what time. Draw a diagram of the setting. Present your results in ONE graphical representation (bar graph for example) and explain what the table and graph mean. Finally, add any thoughts or ideas or explanations about what you have seen in no more than 500 words. Did you see a difference in male and female behaviour? Did it surprise you? Why do you think you saw what you saw? Did you feel uncomfortable doing the observation? Do you think it was wrong? Was there anything you could change if you did it again?

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*[If you do need help with these projects you can email*

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