

AS Psychology Summer Homework 2018



Welcome to A-level Psychology! You have chosen to study an interesting, dynamic, scientific subject! Students who do well on the course and who are entered for exams put in as much time outside of lessons learning and revising – this is expected at A level.

Please complete the following tasks and submit your written response in your first psychology lesson:

Individual task: Why you are interested in studying Psychology? (1 page response)

Case study task - Consider the following case studies and decide whether their behaviour is abnormal or not, give explanations for your answer. Also consider possible causes for their behaviour and ways in which they could be treated.

* A young woman reports that she has an acute fear of snakes. She cannot bear to watch any films or television programmes which include snakes. If she sees a picture of a snake, she becomes very anxious or distressed. If she sees a toy snake in a toy shop she wants to walk away. She certainly will not go anywhere near a zoo.

* A young man, who lives with his mother, believes that the world beyond his house is filled with germs which will kill him. For this reason, he rarely leaves the house. He washes his hands repeatedly and wears gloves if he has to leave the house. because he believes that this will protect him, but becomes very anxious when unable to wash his hands.

* John is a farmer who was severely affected by the recession. During this time he had to borrow money in order to survive, he is now finding it difficult to make repayments. John has always been known as 'a bit moody' and a number of years ago he attempted suicide. Although he is not happy all the time, his mood is stabilised and he is responding well to medication.

Research Task – Using the internet, your new textbook or the library, research the following psychological disorders: depression, OCD and phobias. Outline the characteristics of these disorders, possible causes and possible treatments.

Overall you should spend about 2 hours completing these tasks and you should write a minimum of two pages.

You should also have bought or have ordered the new textbook needed for the course, if you are unable to afford this, please let us know at the start of the course. (There are a few available in the college library but it is essential to have your own)

AQA Psychology for A level by Cara Flanagan et al (2015) Illuminate Publishing

ISBN 978-1-9086-824-06 available online

You also need bring to your first lesson; pens, A4 paper, a folder for class notes and a note book for key terms. These will be checked throughout the course.