

Getting Ready for A level Psychology

Name	

Please complete this booklet as you work through the associated slides.

Slide 3	Identify 1 topic from year 12 and 1 topic from year 13 that you think look the most interesting
Slide 5	AO1 – rewards marks for
	AO2 – rewards marks for
	AO3 – rewards marks for
Slide 6	Name the 6 Psychological Approaches that you will learn about as part of your A level
	*
	*
	*
	*
	*
	*

Slide 8	Biopsychology Key Study:
l b c · · c	Maguire (2000) London Taxi Drivers
I have	
done	
this	
example	THE PART OF THE PA
for you	
	LS62 NVG
Aim:	To discover whether life experiences (eg. The job a person does) results in
	physical changes in the brain.
Method:	Natural Experiment: London Taxi drivers are required to have an extensive
	knowledge of the roads around London. To receive a 'black cab' permit they have to pass an exam called 'The Knowledge'. As such – London taxi drivers make
	much greater use of 'spatial navigation' skills than most people.
	Maguire sampled one group of London taxi drivers and another 'control' group of
	non taxi drivers. He and his colleagues used an MRI scanner to measure their grey matter (brain).
	Maguire compared the measurements to see if there were any differences in
	brain size between the two groups.
Results /	Maguire found that the Posterior Hippocampi (a part of the brain associated
Findings	with spatial navigation) was significantly larger amongst the taxi drivers.
	He also found that the size of the Posterior Hippocampus was positively
	correlated with the amount of time they had spent as a taxi driver (ie the longer
	time they spent as a taxi driver – the bigger their posterior hippocampus).
Evaluation:	As a natural experiment the Independent Variable (whether or not the
Strength,	participant is a taxi driver) is naturally occurring. This makes the experiment
weakness or Real-World	more valid as it is based on people's real-life experiences.
Application	The Dependent Variable (brain size) can be measured objectively (ie it is not just
	a matter of opinion / personal judgement).

Slide 10	Behaviourism Key Study:
	Skinner (1930's) Skinner Box experiments on positive and
	negative reinforcement
	SPEAKER SIGNAL LIGHTS
	FOOD DISPENSER TUBE FOOD PELLET ELECTRIC GRID
Aim:	
Method:	Experiment
Results / Findings	
Evaluation: Strength, weakness or Real-World Application	

Slide 12	Social Learning Key Study: Bandura (1961) Bobo Doll Experiment
	WHAT'S YOUR FAWORITE PSYCHOLOGY STUDY BATMAN? THE BOBO DOLL EXPERIMENT!
Aim:	
Method:	Experiment
Results / Findings	
Evaluation: Strength, weakness or Real World Application	

Slide 14	Cognitive Psychology Key Study:
	Loftus (1974) The Car Crash experiment
Aim:	
Method:	Experiment
2 1: /	
Results / Findings	
Fredrick	
Evaluation: Strength,	
weakness or Real World	
Application	

Slide 16	Psychodynamic Approach Key Study: Freud (1885) Anna O Case Study
Aim:	
Method:	Case Study
Results / Findings	
Evaluation: Strength, weakness or Real World Application	

Slide 18 Humanistic Approach Key Study: Maslow (1970) Biographical Analysis of 18 'self actualized' people Aim: Biographic Analysis Method: Results / Findings Evaluation: Strength, weakness or Real World Application

Slides 19/ 20	The psychology books I have read this summer are
Slide 21	As preparation for A level Psychology I have watched
Slides 23 / 24	I have listened to the following podcasts in relation to psychology (Remember – you can download and listen to podcasts in bed, when you go for a walk, on a long car journey, at the bus stop)
Slide 25	Psychology MOOC courses I have completed.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this introductory course in A level psychology.

Please save / print / keep as evidence. Your teachers would love to see this at the start of the course next year.