**Welcome to Psychology at WQE!**

**The following activities are designed to give you:**

* A flavour of the topics and examples of research studies that the AQA A level Psychology course will cover.
* Practice in the type of research and thinking skills that psychology students are expected to develop.
* Experience in using some of the independent learning skills which are essential for success at Level 3.

**Your work will help to give us an indication of:**

* Your research skills.
* Your commitment to independent learning.
* Your literacy and numeracy skills.
* Your interest in the course.

**You will need to complete this work for your first psychology lesson. Please write your answers digitally, i.e. type into this document (there is no need to print it). Your teacher will give you instructions on how to upload and submit your work. You should be prepared to present and discuss your answers within class. The department will make a record of the quality and completion of this work.**

If you need help with any of the work, please make sure you let us know during enrolment, i.e. before the deadline.

**In order to complete the activities overleaf, please use the digital textbook (this will be the A level textbook for the year, but is also useful for BTEC - details below) and online resources as appropriate**. All of the terms in bold are part of subject-specialist terminology that you will need to look up, but make sure you also look up the meaning of any other words you do not know.

Flanagan, Jarvis & Liddle (2020) AQA Psychology for A level: year 1 & AS.2nd ed. Illuminate Publishing.

Digital access to the above textbook available at:  <https://illuminate.digital/aqapsych2edy1/>

**Use the log in details below:**

Student Username: SWYGG7

Student Password: GREEN7

Other websites you might find useful:

[http://www.simplypsychology.org](http://www.simplypsychology.org/)

[/](http://www.simplypsychology.org/)

[http://psychology4a.com](http://psychology4a.com/)

[/](http://psychology4a.com/)

**STUDY 1: The power of uniforms (Bickman, 1974)**

In a field experiment, Bickman (1974) found that visible symbols of authority, such as uniforms, increased levels of obedience. Three male experimenters dressed either in uniform (as a milkman or a guard) or as a civilian (in a coat and tie) made requests of passers-by in a street in New York, for example, they asked them to pick up a bag for them or provide money for a parking meter. People were most likely to obey the experimenter who was dressed as a guard and least likely to obey the experimenter dressed as a civilian.

1. Find a psychological explanation of obedience that accounts for Bickman’s results. (1 mark)

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1. What is meant by a **field experiment** in psychology? Why is this study a field experiment? (2 marks)

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1. Find two **ethical guidelines** for research in psychology and explain whether or not this study meets them. (2 + 2 marks)

 **1.**

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 **2.**

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**STUDY 2: Leading questions (Loftus & Palmer, 1974)**

Loftus & Palmer (1974) set up a laboratory experiment to see the effect of leading questions on memory of an event. Participants were all shown a video of a car accident. They were then asked a question. *How fast were the cars going when they ............ into each other?* The researchers recorded the estimates of speed. Each group had a different verb used in the question (in the blank). The verbs used were ***smashed, collided, bumped, hit*** *and* ***contacted*.** There were 5 groups of participants all watching the same film but being asked questions using the different verbs. It was found that the group who were asked the question with the verb *‘smashed’* reported the car in the film moving much quicker compared to other groups who were asked the questions with the other verbs.

1. What is a **leading question** and how does this concept explain the findings of Loftus & Palmer’s study? (2 marks)

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1. What is meant by a **laboratory experiment** in psychology? (1 mark)

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1. What is **ecological validity** and why might it be low in this study? (2 marks)

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1. a) From the digital textbook, find the results from the study and complete the table below. (5 marks)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Verb**  | **Mean estimate of speed**  |
| Smashed  |   |
| Hit  |   |
| Collided  |   |
| Bumped  |   |
| Contacted  |   |

b) If you were to display these results in a bar chart, what would be: (3 marks)

* X axis label ………………………………………………………………………………..
* Y axis label …………………………………………………………………………………
* An appropriate title for the bar chart

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**Total marks /20**

**SELF ASSESSMENT**

Please circle or highlight the answer to the following statement:

**I put in a lot of time and research into this task**

**Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree**

**5 4 3 2 1**