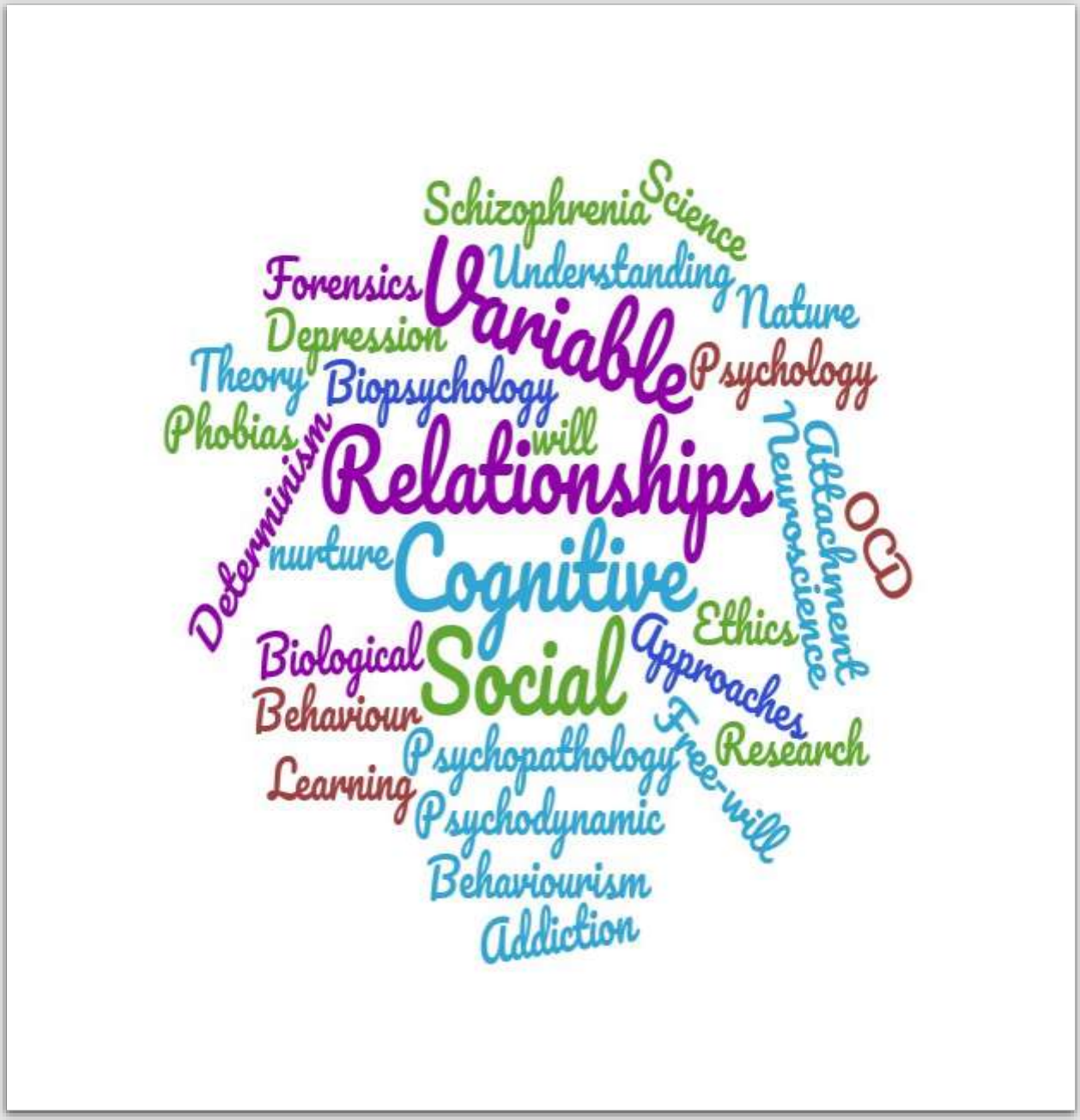
Bridging Work

Psychology

Plymstock School



These activities are designed to give you a flavour of the psychology course, and to start developing your 'mind as a psychologist. Complete as many of the activities as you can, so that you have a head-start and also to see whether psychology is the subject for you. Keep everything in a folder, either on your computer, or in paper form, as it will help you when we start the lessons in September.

We follow the AQA Psychology specification. Any questions you have then you can email me – Mrs Richardson:

rrichardson@plymstockschool.org.uk

There is no coursework in Psychology

Students sit exams at the end of Year 13. AQA Psychology A-level is a linear course.

We focus on explaining why an individual behaves the way that they do and we look at a variety of theories and explanation for human behaviour.

Psychology is regarded as a science and therefore we approach the study of human behaviour in the same way as the traditional sciences. You will be expected to have an understanding of 'how science works' and this will be applied to conducting research in psychology.

A major part of gaining success in Psychology is by learning the main ideas, concepts and terms used – the language of the subject – and then being able to use this language when you are discussing the topics, research and issues relevant to the study of people.

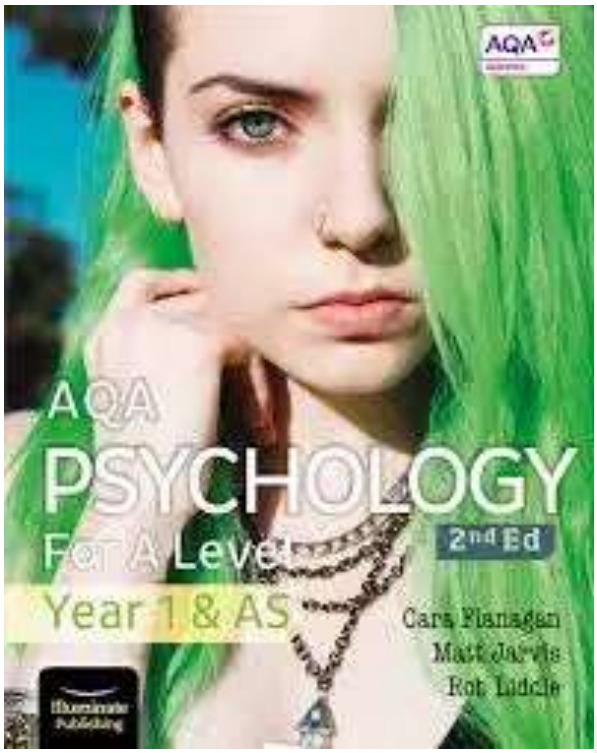
These are the topics we cover:

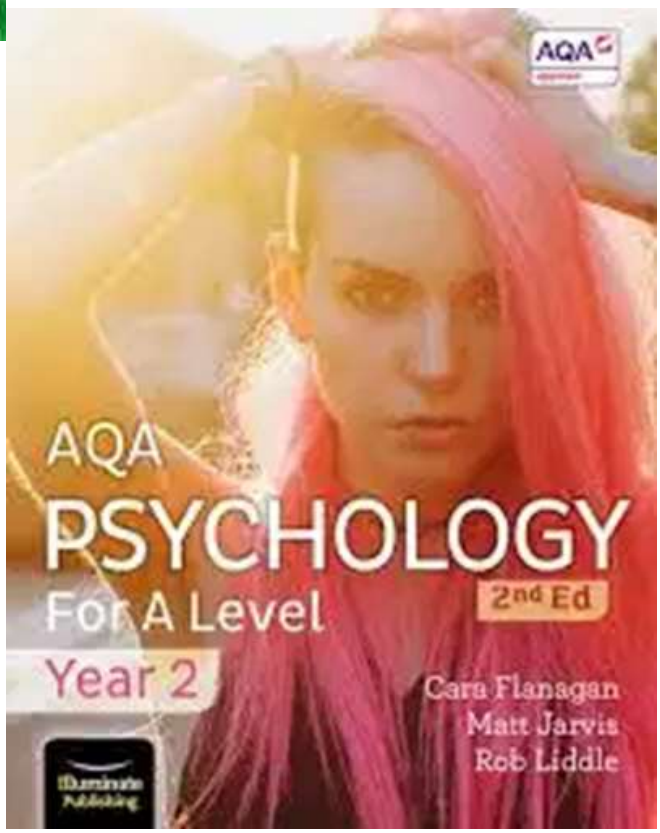
Paper One:	Paper Two:	Paper Three:
Attachment Social Influence Memory Psychology - 33% of A Level	Approaches Biopsychology Research Methods - 33% of A Level	Issues and debates Schizophrenia Relationships Forensics or addiction - 33% of A Level

AQA

TEXTBOOKS

You will be given a textbook in September once you have paid a deposit. If you would like your own textbook these are the updated versions of the ones we use in class

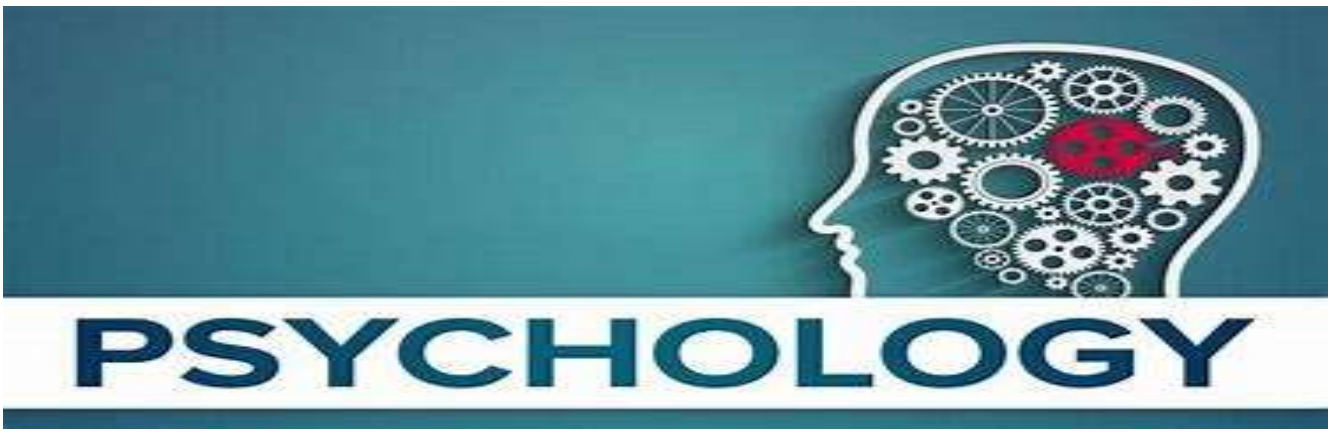




Websites to help you

Websites:

- AQA Specification – https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/introduction
- AQA - Example Assessment Material – https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/assessment-resources
- Simply Psychology – lots of information about psychology
- https://www.simplypsychology.org/
- Tutor2U psychology – lots of information on psychology
- https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology
- Key Concepts
- https://www.bps.org.uk/public/a-z-of-psychology
- Free psychology dictionary to help you to understands some of the key words used in psychology. It is is free on the kindle and can be downloaded here: https://www.amazon.co.uk/Psychology-Key-Terms-Level-Revision-ebook/dp/B086KSRZ1T/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=a+level+psychology&qid=1586291003&s=digital-text&sr=1-5



Task 1

Research methods is all about how we contact our research that leads us to help explain human behaviour. There are a lot of key terms that you will need to know for the research methods component of the course. Research methods is worth 30% of your whole A level so it is important to start getting familiar with these terms.

Define the following key terms in research methods:

1. Experiment
2. Independent variable
3. Dependent variable
4. Ethical issues
5. Ethical guidelines
6. Field experiment
7. Extraneous variables
8. Confounding variables
9. Ecological validity
10. Population validity
11. Validity
12. Informed consent
13. Debriefing
14. Demand characteristics
15. Correlation
16. Pilot study
17. Quantitative data
18. Qualitative data
19. Primary data
20. Secondary data
21. Sample
22. Reliability

Use the following websites to help you:
https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/research-methods-key-term-glossary

Task 2: The maths bit

In Psychology about 10% of the marks available are maths skills – in terms of overall marks this equates to about a grade. The Maths skills are an equivalent level to that of Higher GCSE Maths/Stats– this task will help you become more familiar with some of the mathematical content that you will need to know for the course.

Rounding to decimal places

Round to 1 decimal place

a) 0.374
b) 0.798
c) 0.393
d) 0.584

Round to 2 decimal places

e) 0.136
f) 0.138
g) 0.464

Round to three decimal places

h) 29.9757
i) 46.2317
j) 79.0919

Round the numbers in the table.

Number	1 decimal place	2 decimal places
0.181	0.2	k)
8.928	l)	m)
0.4923	n)	o)
45.7053	p)	q)

Rounding to significant figures

Round to 1 significant figure

a) 15
b) 983
c) 0.0097
d) 1.9

Round to 2 significant figures

e) 0.133
f) 0.0403
g) 90054

Round to 3 significant figures

h) 0.6402
i) 160.7

Task 2: The maths bit continued

Number	1 significant figure	2 significant figures	3 significant figures
4.915	5	j)	k)
5253	l)	m)	n)
197.196	o)	p)	q)
0.4063	r)	s)	t)

Measures of central tendency

Define the following measures of central tendency

Mean:

Median:

Mode:

(a) Find the mean of the data given below.

6 6 1 2 1 8

mean =

(b) Find the mean of the given data below, rounding your answer to the nearest whole number.

11 12 28 17 21 24 27

mean =

c) Find the mean of the given data below, rounding your answer to 1 decimal place

11.9 4.8 16.4 18.2 12.3 3.6 2.8
25.6 10.8 0.6

mean =

(d) Find the median of the data given below.

15 20 10 15 14 23 14

median =

Task 2: The maths bit continued

Sample question

A Psychologist investigated whether recall was affected by the way the material was presented. One group was given pictures to recall, the other group were given words.

Number of Pictures Recalled	Number of Words Recalled
7	4
5	6
10	7
8	5
7	6
5	5
7	9
9	3

Calculate the measures of central tendency for the following set of raw data.

Condition 1 (Numbers of pictures recalled)

a) Mode =

b) Median =

c) Mean =

Condition 2 (Number of words recalled)

d) Mode =

e) Median =

f) Mean =

Task 3: Attachment

The study of how attachment forms in babies is really important as your early experiences can have an impact on your relationships in later life. Ainsworth and Bell conducted research into attachment types using the strange situation procedure. They identified 3 types of attachment in infants:

- Secure attachment
- Insecure avoidant attachment
- Insecure resistant attachment

Your task is to research the strange situation and the three attachment types.

Create a poster outlining what happened in the strange situation procedure and explain the three different attachment types. Think about how each attachment type reacted when their mother left the room, how they reacted when their mother returned, how they responded to a stranger and how willing they were to explore their environment. Use pictures to help you illustrate your work.

You can do this on paper or on a computer.

Websites to help you:

https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/ainsworths-strange-situation

https://www.simplypsychology.org/mary-ainsworth.html

http://www.psychology4a.com/strange-situation.html

Task 4: Ethics in psychology

When conducting psychological research it is important to consider the welfare of the people that are the focus of the study.

Define what is meant by ethics

The British psychological society issues guidelines for psychologists and researchers. Outline the considerations it recommends researchers should take into account to safeguard the welfare of participants.

What is the purpose of having an ethical code?

Summarise the code of ethics in psychology

https://www.simplypsychology.org/Ethics.html
https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/ethics-and-psychology

Task 4: Social Influence

Some of the most famous studies in psychology have come from the topic area of social influence.

One of the topic areas in social influence is obedience to authority. **Stanley Milgram (1963)** examined justifications for acts of genocide offered by those accused at the World War II, Nuremberg War Criminal Trials. Their defence often was based on 'obedience' – that they were just following orders from their superiors. He wanted to produce a study to investigate obedience to authority.

Task 1: Use the resources available to you to create a story board outlining the procedure and findings of Milgram's study. I want to know what did he do and what did he find.

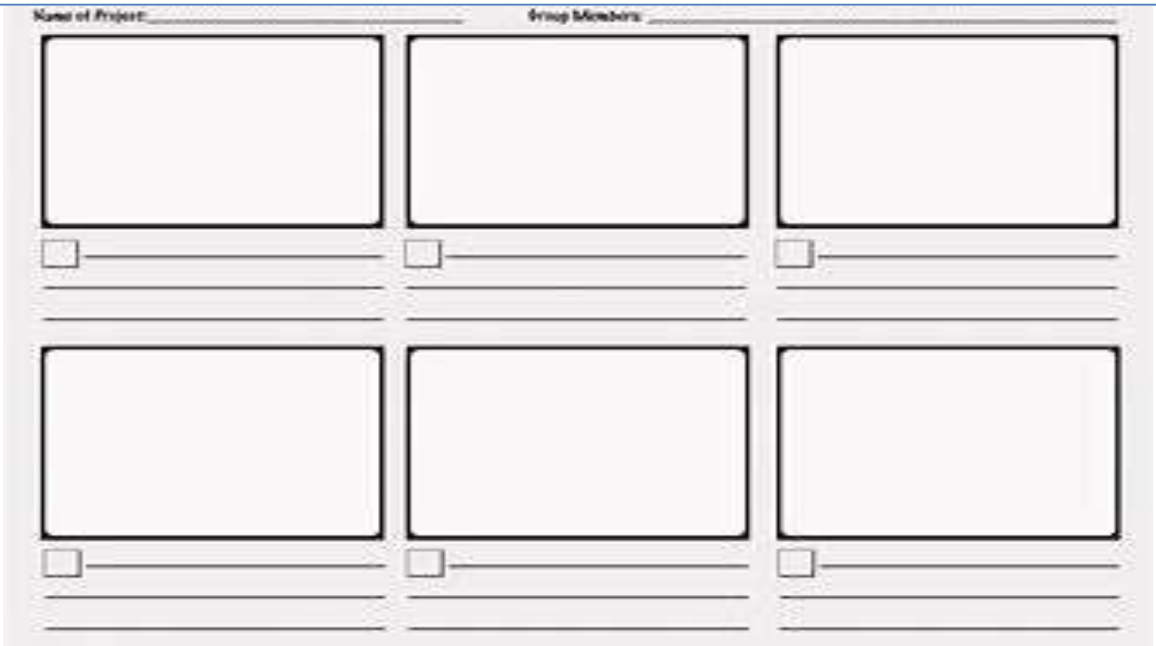
Task 2: comment on the ethics of this study based on your research in task 3.What ethical guidelines did he break?

Resources:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOUEC5YXV8U
(YouTube clip of the original study)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6GxIuljT3w&t=2s
(YouTube clip of a replication of this study conducted by Darren Brown using the same procedure)

https://www.simplypsychology.org/milgram.html



Task 5: Psychopathology

Psychopathology means the study of psychological abnormality. One section of the psychopathology unit requires us to understand how we decide who is showing 'normal' behaviour and who is showing 'abnormal' behaviour. One way we can do this is via the statistical infrequency definition
Follow the link below and watch video activity 1.
https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/definitions-abnormality-statistical-infrequency-online-lesson
Produce your own summary of the statistical infrequency definition of abnormality. Please include a definition of statistical infrequency, intellectual disability disorder and normal distribution.

Research the following disorders:

- **Depression**
- **Schizophrenia**
- **Obsessive compulsive disorder**
- **Phobias**

Can you find out any statistics? How common are they? Who is more likely to develop the disorder males or females? Does it typically occur at a particular age? Which disorder would the statistical infrequency definition classify as 'abnormal' and which ones would be classed as 'normal'?
You can present your findings any way you wish.
You might like to look at the following website that contains statistics on mental health
https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/statistics

Task 6: Biopsychology

Neurons

Neurons receive information and transmit it to other cells. There are thought to be around 100 billion neurons in the brain and 1 billion neurons in the spinal cord. There are three main types of neurons, all of which have a different role to play. Although different types of neurons vary in size and function they all operate in the same way – passing on messages via electrical and chemical (neurotransmitter) signals.

Resources

Crash course - the chemical mind:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4N-7AIzK7s

The structure of a neuron:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qS83wD29PY

Synaptic transmission:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhowH0kb7n0

Website: https://alevelpsychology.net/approaches/the-biological-approach/the-structure-of-neurons/

Task

(1) Use the above resources to make a model of a neuron. This can be made out of play-dough, sweets, pasta, cardboard or anything you can find in your house and garden. Take a photograph and add it to your work

(2) There are three types of neurons we need to know about in psychology – sensory, relay & motor neurons. Can you find out what these neurons do and where they are found

(3) What is meant by synaptic transmission? Can you draw a diagram to show how it works?

Task 7: Biopsychology

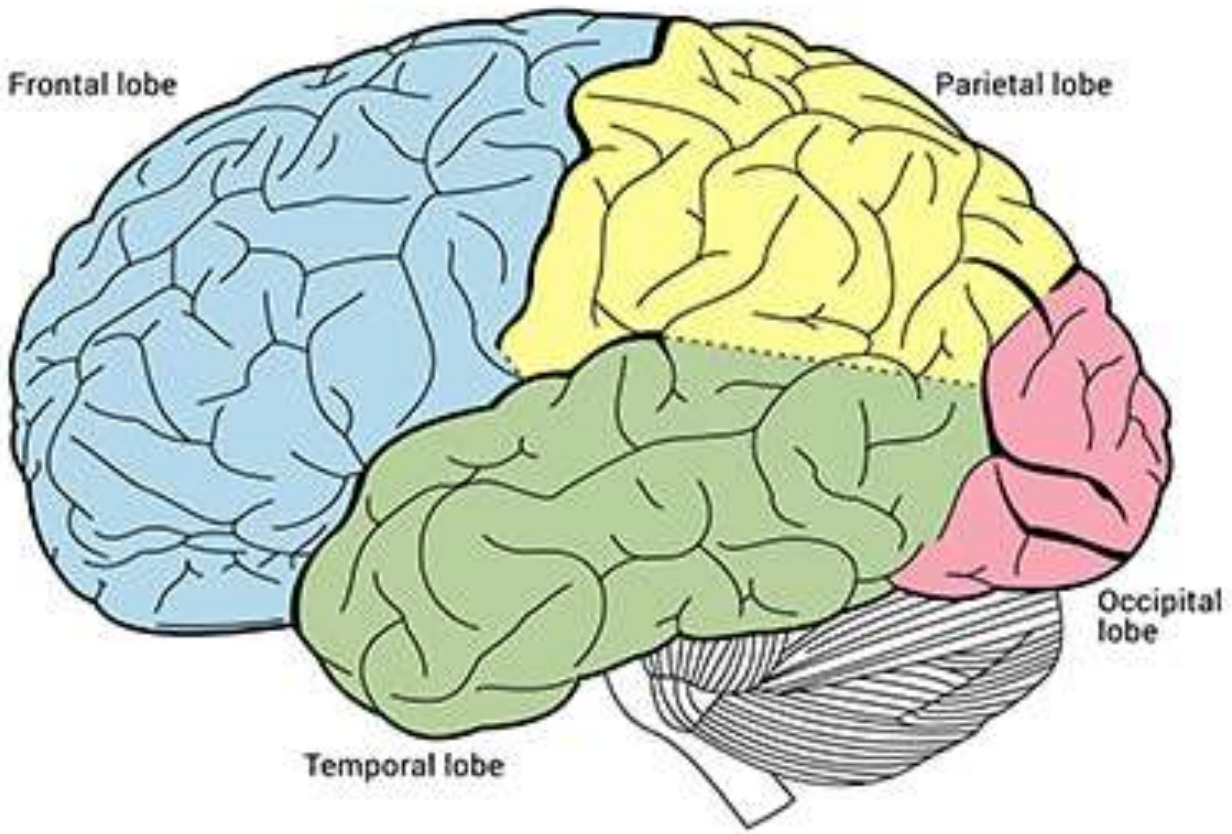
The brain

Localisation of function is the idea that certain functions (e.g. language, memory, etc.) have certain locations or areas within the brain.

One of the first cases that recognised this was the case of Phineas Gage.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aw0zbyQVCEc

There are four key areas that you need to be aware of: motor area, somatosensory area, visual are and auditory areas.

Task: produce a labelled diagram of the brain showing the location and the function of these areas. Can you also find out about Broca's area (where is it in the brain and what does it do?) and Wernicke's area (where is it and what does it do?



Task 8: Approaches (with a link to Forensics)

In psychology not everyone explains behaviour in the same way. There are various' approaches' which all view the causes of behaviour in different ways.
Three examples of approaches that we will study over the two year course are:

(1) Biological approach
(2) Cognitive approach
(3) Psychodynamic approach

Part 1: research the biological approach, what does it say about the cause of behaviour?
Part 2: research that cognitive approach, what does it say about the cause of behaviour? Research the following terms (a) cognitive distortions (b) minimalization (c) hostile attribution.
Part 3: research the psychodynamic approach, what does it say about the cause of behaviour? Research a psychologist called Sigmund Freud. What does he mean by your id, ego and superego? Research a psychologist called Bowlby, what is his maternal deprivation hypothesis?

Application: What made John Massey a murderer?

Background: John Massey shot a man in 1975 and spent 43 years of his life in prison (20 years was the sentence he was given for the murder, the extra years were added because of his escape attempts).

Part 4: Use different explanation for offending behaviour to explain John's offending behaviour and murder. Use the worksheet on the next page

You will need to go onto All 4 (Channel 4 on demand) and register for an account if you have not already got one . **You need Episode 1 of What makes a Murderer.**

Task 8: Approaches (with a link to Forensics)

Application: What made John Massey a murderer?

Part 4: Use different explanation for offending behaviour to explain John's offending behaviour and murder.

(1) Biological explanation: Has John's biological make up predisposed him to offending behaviour? Explain your answer. Think about:
- Brain structure (amygdala, Insula, Striatum)
- Genes

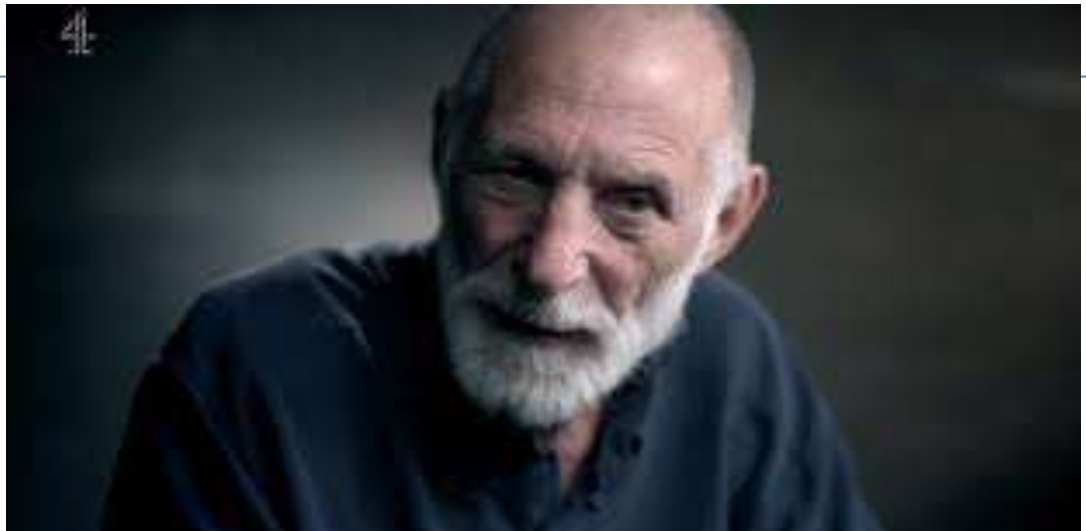
(2) Cognitive explanation : Consider John Massey's behaviour, the bank robbing and murder and answer the questions below:

- Is there any evidence of cognitive distortion?
- Is there any evidence of minimalisation?
- Is there evidence of hostile attribution?

(3) **Psychodynamic explanation**

- Is there evidence of maternal deprivation?
- Is it possible that John had developed a weak superego? Explain your answer

Summary: Do you think his crime was his fault or was he a product of his biology and/or his experiences? Explain your answer



To finish

- Thank you for reading through all of this. I hope you have found it interesting and that it has inspired you to study psychology in September.
- Remember – email me any questions:
- rrichardson@plymstockschool.org.uk

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