



# Psychology Transition Work

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Plymstock School



These activities are designed to give you a flavour of the psychology course, and to start developing your mind as a psychologist.

Work that you complete will be used in lessons and help to give you a head start in psychology and begin to develop your psychological knowledge and understanding.

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

[rrichardson@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:rrichardson@plymstockschool.org.uk)

## Websites to help you

### Websites:

- Simply Psychology – lots of information about psychology
- <https://www.simplypsychology.org/>
- Tutor2U psychology – lots of information on psychology
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>
- SHELLYPSYCH AQA PSYCHOLOGY LINEAR COURSE – lots of course notes and videos on the whole of the A-level course
- <https://shelleypsych.wordpress.com/>
- Key Concepts
- <https://www.bps.org.uk/public/a-z-of-psychology>
- Free psychology dictionary to help you to understand some of the key words used in psychology. It 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](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)

### YouTube Channels

Subscribe to the following YouTube channels that contain excellent videos for a wide range of topics we cover

- **Bear it in MIND** - <https://www.youtube.com/@BearitinMIND>
- **PsychBoost**
- <https://www.youtube.com/@PsychBoost>
- **Psychology Unlocked**
- <https://www.youtube.com/@PsychologyUnlocked>
- **Psychology TedTalks** – get yourself interested in the world of psychology
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsMtTz0TAMza03htj2uvj-5OHe3p64AkZ>



# Section 1: Research Methods

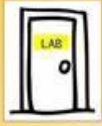
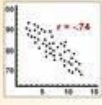

Research methods is all about how we conduct our research that leads us to help explain human behaviour. There are a lot of key terms that you will need to know for the research methods component of the course. Research methods is worth 30% of your whole A level so it is important to start getting familiar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

## RESEARCH METHODS

...DIFFERENT TO RESEARCH DESIGN!

	<b>LAB EXPERIMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where a researcher manipulates the independent variable (IV) to see its effect on the dependent variable (DV).</li><li>• Happens in a <b>CONTROLLED</b> environment e.g. lab.</li><li>• IV/DV used to find cause/effect</li></ul>
	<b>FIELD EXPERIMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where a researcher manipulates the independent variable (IV) to see its effect on the dependent variable (DV).</li><li>• Happens in a <b>NATURAL</b> environment e.g. lab.</li><li>• IV/DV used to find cause/effect</li></ul>
	<b>NATURAL EXPERIMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The independent variable (IV) occurs naturally and is not manipulated e.g. male v female.</li><li>• Dependent variables are still measured to determine differences between groups e.g. IV = male/female DV = Maths test score</li></ul>
	<b>CORRELATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Measures the strength of a <i>relationship</i> between two variable e.g. stress and illness</li><li>• Does <b>NOT</b> determine cause/effect because it has no IV/DV.</li></ul>
	<b>OBSERVATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The measurement and systematic recording of behaviour—either in the field or in the lab.</li><li>• They usually involve the use of <i>behavioural categories</i> - specific behaviours are chosen to be counted or timed during the observation.</li></ul>
	<b>SELF REPORT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where the participant gives information about themselves to the researcher.</li><li>• This can be through a questionnaire (written) or an interview (face to face).</li></ul>
	<b>CASE STUDY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An in-depth, detailed study of one individual or small group.</li><li>• Data is gathered in lots of different ways: Interviews, biographies, observations, tests etc.</li><li>• Often used in rare and unique cases e.g. Genie</li></ul>

Use the following websites to help you:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/research-methods-key-term-glossary>

<https://shelleypsych.wordpress.com/2015/07/31/week-4-research-methods-experimental/>

## **Section 2: Ethics in psychology**

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

### **Task 1: Define what is meant by ethics in psychology**

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.

### **Task 2: Watch the following:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSD4ta9gaGU>

### **Task 3: Read the following**

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/Ethics.html>

### **Task 4: Complete the following:**

**(a) What is the purpose of having an ethical code?**

**(b) Summarise the code of ethics in psychology**

**Task 5:** Watch the following video. Which study was the most unethical and say why.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZ3l1jgmYrY>



**The British  
Psychological Society**  
Promoting excellence in psychology

## Section 3: Memory

In psychology, case studies of unique individuals can tell us a lot about how the brain works and the causes of behavior. One of the most famous case studies in the study of memory was the case of Henry Gustav Molaison, known as HM. HM is the most studied individual in psychological history and the case of HM told us a great deal about human memory.



### Task

Research the case of HM and produce a one side of A4 information sheet outlining the following information. You can use pictures to help you illustrate this case

- (1) Who was HM and how did he become a case study under investigation?
- (2) What surgery did he undergo and what was the impact of this surgery on his memory?
- (3) What has the case study of HM told us about human memory?

Read the following articles on the case of HM

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/henry-molaison-patient-hm.html#:~:text=Who%20is%20H.M.%3F,that%20occurred%20in%20his%20childhood.>

<https://www.brainfacts.org/in-the-lab/tools-and-techniques/2018/the-curious-case-of-patient-hm-082818>

Watch the following **Ted Talk** - What happens when you remove the hippocampus?

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-happens-when-you-remove-the-hippocampus-sam-kean>

## Section 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 section 2 .What ethical guidelines did he break?

Resources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbKlkfk-wtc>

(YouTube clip of the original study)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6GxluljT3w&t=2s>

(YouTube clip of a replication of this study conducted by Darren Brown using the same procedure)

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

Name of Project:	Group Members:	
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# Section 5: Approaches (with a link to criminal psychology)

In psychology not everyone explains behaviour in the same way. There are various 'approaches' which all view the causes of behaviour in different ways.

Two examples of approaches that we will study over the two year course are:

- (1) Biological approach
- (2) Psychodynamic approach

**Part 1:** research the biological approach, what does it say about the cause of behaviour?

**Part 2:** 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?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_K9Ab2392I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_K9Ab2392I) [video explaining biological approach]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMupSaMoPK8> [video explaining psychodynamic approach]

## **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 3:** Use different explanations for offending behaviour to explain John's offending behaviour and murder. **Use the worksheet on the next page**

You will need to log onto to the Plymstock school website. Go to home access – school network folder. Login and go to **learning and teaching area**. Find the file that says psychology and then bridging work 2023. The video is in there.

Or follow the link <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AtWnFhQsYG4Mg5Yt85pZAgar-cFgcQ?e=cX54Ug> and scroll down to **What makes a murderer – John Massey**



## **Section 5: Approaches (with a link to criminal psychology)**

**Application: What made John Massey a murderer?**

**Part 3: Use different explanations for offending behaviour to explain John's offending behaviour and murder.**

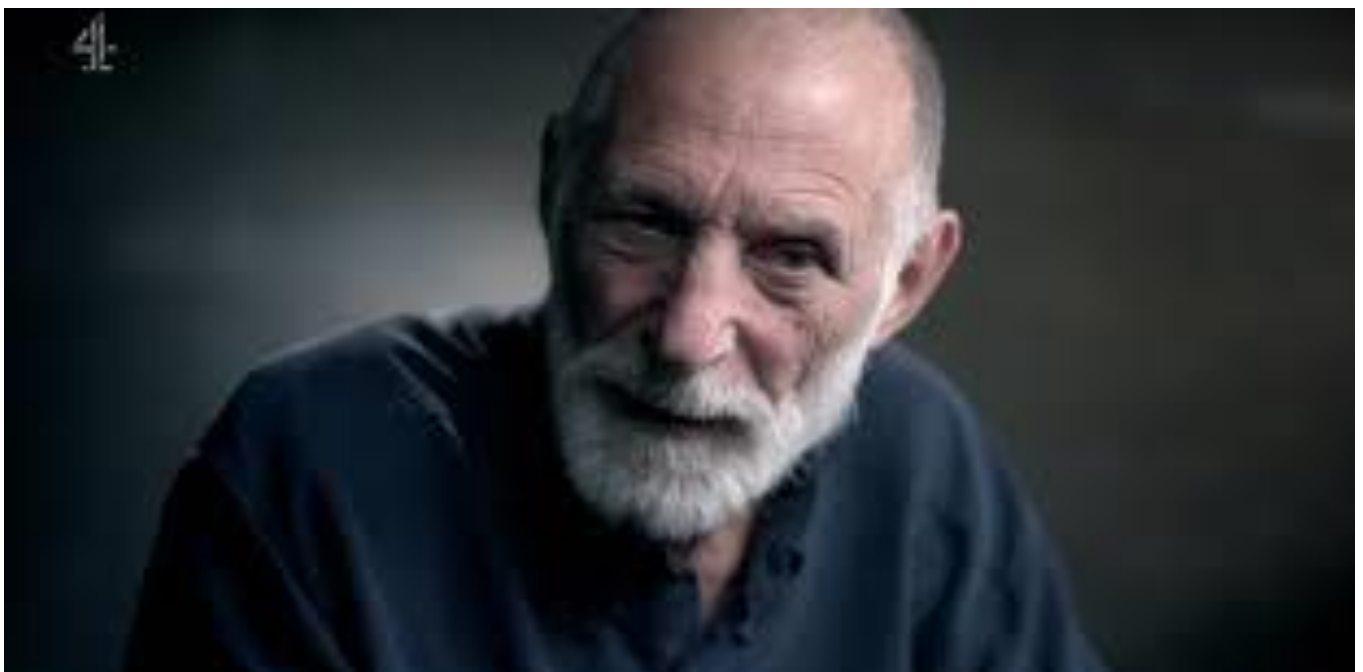
**(1) Biological explanation:** Has John's biological make up predisposed him to offending behaviour? Explain your answer. Think about:

- Brain structure (amygdala, Insula, Striatum)
- Genes

**(2) 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](mailto:rrichardson@plymstockschool.org.uk)

