

A level Psychology

Paper One: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology

- **Social Influence**
- Types of conformity, explanations of conformity, conforming to social roles (A01, A02, A03)
- Explanations of, resistance to social influence and social change (A01, A02, A03)

- **Memory**
- Models of memory and types of memory.
- Explanations of forgetting and factors effecting EWT
- Types of long term memory
- Interference and retrieval failure
- Cognitive interview techniques

- **Attachment**
- Caregiver and infant interactions, animal studies, explanations of attachment (A01, A02 and A03)
- Strange situation, Bowlby theory, institutionalisation (A01, A02 and A03).
- The influence of early attachments (A01, A02 and A03)

- **Psychopathology**
- Definitions, characteristics, Behavioural explanation and treatment of a phobia, (A01, A02, A03)
- Cognitive explanation and treatment of biological explanation and treatment of depression (A01, A02, A03)



Paper Two: Biopsychology, Approaches, Research methods

- **Biopsychology-**
- The nervous system and endocrine system
- Neurons and synaptic transmission
- Localisation of function in the brain
- Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma
- Split brain research into hemispheric lateralisation
- Ways of investigating the brain
- Biological rhythms
- Infradian/ultradian
- Endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers

- **Research Methods**
- Pilot studies and the aims of piloting.
- Experimental designs: repeated measures, independent groups, matched pairs.
- Observational design: behavioural categories; event sampling; time sampling.
- Questionnaire
- construction, including use of open and closed questions; design of interviews.
- Variables: manipulation and control of variables, including independent, dependent, extraneous, confounding;
- Operationalisation of variables.
- Control: random allocation and counterbalancing, randomisation and standardisation.
- Demand characteristics and investigator effects.
- Ethics, BPS

- **Research Methods**
- Types of experiment laboratory and field experiments; natural and quasi-experiments.
- Observational techniques.
- Types of observation: naturalistic and controlled observation; covert and overt observation; participant and non-participant observation.

- Approaches:**
- Cognitive theory, The biological approach, Psychodynamic approach (A01, A02, A03) **humanistic approach**

- **Research Methods**
- Aims: stating aims, the difference between aims and hypotheses.
- Hypotheses: directional and non-directional.
- Sampling: the difference between population and sample.
- Sampling techniques including: random, systematic, stratified, opportunity and volunteer.

Paper Three: Gender, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology, Issues and debates

- **Gender**
- Sex and gender
- Androgyny
- The role of hormones and chromosomes
- Atypical sex chromosomes
- Cognitive explanations: Kholberg and Gender schema theory
- Psychodynamic approach to explaining
- Social learning explanation of gender
- The influence of media
- Atypical gender development

- **Schizophrenia**
- Biological explanations
- Psychological explanations
- Biological therapies
- Psychological therapies
- The interactionist approach to schizophrenia

- **Forensic Psychology**
- Defining and measuring crime
- Offender profiling
- Biological explanations
- Psychological explanations
- Dealing with offending behaviour