

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

SUMMER PROJECTS
YEAR 11 STUDENTS

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY:
COGNITIVE
BIOLOGICAL
SOCIAL
LEARNING APPROACH



HEART OF
WORCESTERSHIRE
COLLEGE

KICK START YOUR STUDY AT HOW COLLEGE WITH ONE OF OUR CURRICULUM BRIDGING PROJECTS

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology

Psychology is one of the most exciting fields of study among the social sciences. Psychology is a richly diverse scientific discipline that studies behaviour and mental processes. Psychologists are interested in all aspects of behaviour ranging from the molecular level to social and cultural factors. As Psychology is the scientific study of minds and behaviour it is a part of our everyday lives. An understanding of human behaviour is fundamental to many jobs in society and the study of psychology at degree level and beyond remains a very popular choice.

We wish you a warm welcome and look forward to sharing this fascinating field with you.

Approaches in Psychology

Background

Psychology explains behaviour from different viewpoints. These viewpoints are known as psychological approaches. In unit 1, you will be introduced to some basic ideas from the different approaches in psychology.

Social psychology explains how human behaviour occurs in a social context and how people, society and culture can affect behaviour.

Cognitive psychology focuses on human information processing and how it can influence, and be influenced by, perception and memory.

The learning approach in psychology explains how behaviour is learned from the world around us – through association, the consequent rewards and punishments or through the imitation of role models.

The biological approach to psychology takes the opposite view to the learning approach and explains how internal biological processes, such as genetic inheritance, brain structure and chemistry, can affect human behaviour and how these processes can be explained by evolution.

In this unit, you will investigate the various ways in which psychologists explain human interactions and you will gain a clear insight into how and why some behaviour occurs.

Tasks 1

Create a leaflet outlining the key assumptions of the following different approaches to psychology:

Cognitive Approach

Social Approach

Learning Approach (Behaviourism)

Biological Approach(Physiological)

What you should hand-in

Completed Leaflet.

Resources

www.psychologistworld.com/issues/approaches-in-psychology

www.simplypsychology.org/perspective.html

www.simplypsychology.org/social-psychology.html

Any A-level book will cover some of the approaches

Pearson BTEC National Applied Psychology: Book 1

Applying Psychological theories to behaviour

Background

Psychology is about understanding what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us address many of the problems and issues in society today. One of the problems society has is crime. Criminal and forensic psychology is a specialist branch of psychology that uses psychological theories to explain criminal behaviour. If psychologists can gain an understanding of why some people turn to crime, in particular violent crime, then they can start to address the problems and issues around this. For example, treatment programmes are delivered to some inmates in prison to try and reduce reoffending.

One of the questions forensic and criminal psychologists ask is “What makes a murderer?”

Task 2

Anthony Glassford Powell, 49, from London, served 20 years for murder after he shot and killed David Edwards in 1993.

a.) Watch the following TV programme

www.channel4.com/programmes/what-makes-a-murderer/on-demand/69081-003

Write down all the reasons Professor Adrian Raine and Dr. Vicky Thakordas – Desai give to explain why Anthony Powell killed.

You also need to think about whether he had control over his actions.

- b.)** Sort the reasons that were given for Anthony becoming a murderer into:
Biological and psychological explanations
- c.)** Produce a poster identifying what made Anthony Glassford Powell a murderer
- d.)** Can you link any of the psychological reasons to cognitive, social or learning approaches?
- e.)** Write a brief summary of which reasons you think give the best explanations for Anthony becoming a murderer. Do you think he was responsible for his actions or was he destined to become a murderer?

What you should hand-in

- Poster
- Answers to question 2d
- Summary

Resources

www.channel4.com/programmes/what-makes-a-murderer/on-demand/69081-003

Independent research

Background

As you are progressing on to a level 3 course you will be expected to learn and work independently. This will involve the ability to source information for yourselves. Identify relevant points within that information, bring together information from different sources and write about them in your own words.

Task 3

- a.)** Research a criminal of your choosing. Ensure that it is a criminal you are able to find background information on eg. Upbringing, school life, past head injuries etc.
- b.)** Either produce a small display for the class room. – eg. poster, information sheets, pictures etc or produce a power point presentation

Include

- The crime/s they committed,
- Background information including identifying biological and psychological aspects that could explain why they became criminals.
- Newspaper headlines, reports in the press, pictures, photographs
- What sentence they received

c.) In the TV programme you watched Adrain Raine asked the question

‘Why don’t we do more to help those kids in greatest need to get them off that criminal path in life?’

Write a newspaper article on this topic include what you have learned about explanations of criminal behaviour and suggest ways that could help children avoid a life of crime.

What you should hand-in

- Display or power point presentation
- Newspaper article

Resources

Task 3a – various websites depending with criminal you chose.

Task 3c

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/preventing-involvement-crime

www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/migrated/files/sp93.pdf
(just read the summary on the first page)

Indicative time for this project:

Approx.10 hours.

Instructions on how to submit this:

Please submit all work to:

Carol Anderton - Psychology Lecturer

e. science@howcollege.ac.uk

How will I benefit from this project:

The project will give you an insight into some of the topics you will be studying on the course. It will also give you a head start in working on topics and content that will be relevant when you begin your journey with us.

What can I expect to get back after I submit my project work:

The receipt of your work will be acknowledged and a member of the team will give you some feedback.

Key information you should include:

Your name

Your email address

A contact telephone number