

BTEC Applied Psychology Summer Work

Psychology is the science of human cognition and behaviour and takes into account a range of possible influences e.g., our genes, brain, upbringing, thought processes etc.

Complete the following tasks to help you get started thinking about psychology in terms of both theory and research evidence.

1. The 4 main approaches in psychology are: cognitive, social, learning, and biological.

- **Cognitive** – watch this Crash Course Psychology episode (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVWbrNls-Kw>) and answer the questions below:
 - a) What is meant by 'priming'? Give an example
 - b) Give two examples of retrieval cues
 - c) What are the three ways we forget things?
 - d) Outline Loftus' 'car crash study' into eyewitness memory

Challenge: Why is an understanding of memory and forgetting important?
- **Social** – watch this video about Solomon Asch's conformity experiment (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkK5eA_qhFk) and answer the questions below:
 - a) How many students participated? How many actors were part of the group?
 - b) What task was each student asked to do?
 - c) How many times did the confederates give the same obviously wrong answer?
 - d) What were the results of the experiment?

Challenge: Why do people feel the need to conform to obviously wrong answers?
- **Learning** – watch this TED-Ed video about learning through conditioning (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6LEcM0E0io>) and answer the questions below:
 - a) In Pavlov's experiment with dogs, what was the unconditioned stimulus and what became the conditioned stimulus?
 - b) In terms of operant conditioning, what are the effects of reinforcement and punishment on behaviour?
- **Biological** – your brain has 4 main lobes: frontal, parietal, temporal, and occipital. Draw a diagram of the brain, label these lobes, and give a brief description of the function of each lobe i.e., what they do.

2. An important behaviour that psychologists need to understand is **aggression** – create a poster that explains the following:

- 3 biological influences on aggression
- 2 environmental influences on aggression
- 1 cognitive bias that leads to aggression