

Year 11-12 Bridging WorkYear 11-12 Bridging Work



Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Psychology

DATE: Summer 2026

The aims of this Bridging work are:

Objective 1: To introduce you to new course-related terminology that will support you in accessing A-level content.

Objective 2: To provide you with an activity that helps inform content that will be taught to you in the first half-term of Year 12.

Objective 3: Introduce wider reading with a structured follow-up task.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1:

A key terms and definition match-up task.

Part 2:

A mini memory experiment to conduct on friends and family.

Part 3:

A wider reading task linked to the memory topic and other elements of the Psychology A-level course.

FOLLOW UP:

Your bridging work will be assessed in the following way/s:

Purple:

- You have matched up all (if not most) of the key terms to the correct definitions (letters).
- You managed to get 5 participants to do the memory experiment and reflected well on the questions.
- Your wider reading work is fully completed with an exceptional level of detail. It is clear you have read the article and taken your time to complete all sections of the review.

Blue:

- You have matched up most of the key terms to the correct definitions (letters).
- You managed to get at least 4 participants to do the memory experiment and reflected on the questions.
- Your wider reading work is completed with a high level of detail. E.g some of the definitions are of complex key terms from the article.

Green:

- You have matched up some of the key terms to the correct definitions (letters).
- You managed to get at least 3 participants to do the memory experiment and reflected on the questions.
- Your wider reading work is completed.

Yellow:

- Your work is completed but sections lack detail, such as definitions, or the written areas (Summary and links to study). Key words are likely to be more basic words/concepts from the article.
- OR Your work is partially completed, eg 2 out of 3 facts or 3 out of 5 definitions.

Orange:

- Your work is incomplete. Whole sections are not completed, eg definitions

Task 1 - Psychology Research Methods

Write the correct letter for the key term and then play the Kahoot!

 Experimental Method

Key Term	Definition (Muddled)	Correct letter
1. Aim	a. Assigning participants to conditions by chance.	
2. Hypothesis	b. A variable other than the IV that may affect the DV.	
3. Directional hypothesis	c. A testable statement predicting the outcome of the research.	
4. Non-directional hypothesis	d. Alternating the order of conditions to control for order effects.	
5. Independent variable	e. The variable that is manipulated in an experiment.	
6. Dependent variable	f. A general statement of what the researcher intends to investigate.	
7. Operationalisation	g. Predicts the direction of the effect or relationship.	

8. Extraneous variable	h. A small-scale trial run of the investigation.	
9. Counterbalancing	i. Predicts an effect or relationship but not the direction.	
10. Random allocation	j. Defining variables in a way that they can be measured.	
11. Demand characteristics	k. Unintentional influence of the researcher on the results.	
12. Investigator effects	l. The variable that is measured in an experiment.	
13. Standardisation	m. Ensuring all participants are treated in the same way.	
14. Pilot studies	n. Cues that influence participants' behaviour based on perceived expectations.	

Experimental Designs

Key Term	Definition (Muddled)	Correct letter
1. Independent groups design	a. Participants are matched on key variables before being allocated to conditions.	
2. Repeated measures design	b. The same participants take part in all experimental conditions.	
3. Matched pairs design	c. Participants are placed in different groups for different conditions.	

Types of Experiments

Key Term	Definition (Muddled)	Correct letter
1) Laboratory experiment	a. The IV is based on existing differences and not manipulated.	
1) Field experiment	b. The IV occurs naturally and is not manipulated by the researcher.	
1) Natural experiment	c. An experiment conducted in a natural setting where the IV is manipulated by the researcher.	
1) Quasi-experiment	d. An experiment conducted in a controlled environment where the IV is manipulated by the researcher.	

Reliability and Validity

Key Term	Definition (Muddled)	Correct letter
1. Internal validity	a. The consistency of a measure or finding.	
2. External validity	b. The extent to which findings can be generalised to other settings.	

3. Reliability	c. The extent to which the study measures what it intends to within its setting.	
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Self-Report Techniques

Key Term	Definition (Muddled)	Correct letter
1. Questionnaire	a. An interview that is more like a guided conversation.	
2. Open questions	b. An interview with set, pre-determined questions.	
3. Closed questions	c. A written method of collecting self-report data from participants.	
4. Interviews	d. Includes some set questions and some open conversation.	
5. Structured interview	e. Questions with fixed, often quantitative, response options.	
6. Unstructured interview	f. Questions that allow for extended, qualitative responses.	
7. Semi-structured interview	g. A method of data collection involving face-to-face questioning.	

Observational Techniques

Key Term	Definition (Muddled)	Correct letter
1. Behavioural categories	a. Recording each time a specific behaviour occurs.	
2. Time sampling	b. The observer does not take part in the group being studied.	
3. Event sampling	c. The observer becomes part of the group being studied.	
4. Naturalistic observation	d. Recording behaviour in set time intervals.	
5. Controlled observation	e. Specific, clearly defined and measurable behaviours to look for and record in an observation.	
6. Covert observation	f. Observing behaviour in the environment where it normally occurs.	
7. Overt observation	g. Observing behaviour in a setting that is structured or manipulated by the researcher.	
8. Participant observation	h. Participants are unaware they are being observed.	
9. Non-participant observation	i. Participants know they are being observed.	

Sampling methods

Key Term	Definition (Muddled)	Correct letter
1. Opportunity sampling	a. Participants self-select to take part.	
2. Volunteer sampling	b. Each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected.	
3. Random sampling	c. Using participants who are readily available.	
4. Stratified sampling	d. Participants are selected to reflect subgroups in the population.	
5. Systematic sampling	e. Every nth member of the population is selected.	

Research Reporting

Key Term	Definition (Muddled)	Correct letter
1. Abstract	a. Interprets the results and considers implications.	
2. Introduction	b. Combining results from multiple studies to identify trends.	
3. Method	c. Outlines the background literature, rationale, and aims of the study.	
4. Results	d. A list of sources cited in the report.	
5. Discussion	e. Details how the research was conducted.	
6. References	f. A 150-word summary of the research that is at the front of the report.	
7. Peer review	g. Presents the findings of the study.	
8. Meta-analysis	h. The process of evaluating the validity of research by other experts in the field.	

Data Handling & Analysis

Key Term	Definition (Muddled)	Correct letter
1. Qualitative data	a. A statistical measure of the strength and direction of a relationship. (-1 to +1)	
2. Quantitative data	b. The most frequently occurring score.	
3. Primary data	c. A bell-shaped, symmetrical distribution of data.	
4. Secondary data	d. Descriptive data that is not numerical.	
5. Descriptive statistics	e. Summary statistics used to describe data.	

6. Measures of central tendency	f. Statistical measures including mean, median, and mode.	
7. Mean	g. Statistics that describe the spread of data.	
8. Median	h. A measure of how spread out the data is around the mean.	
9. Mode	i. A relationship where one variable increases as the other decreases.	
10. Measures of dispersion	j. A graph showing the relationship between two variables.	
11. Range	k. A relationship where both variables increase together.	
12. Standard deviation	l. The arithmetic average of a set of scores.	
13. Normal distribution	m. A graph with separate bars for categorical data.	
14. Skewed distribution	n. Data collected firsthand for the specific research.	
15. Histogram	o. Data collected previously for another purpose.	
16. Bar chart	p. Numerical data that can be measured.	
17. Scatter graph	q. A graph showing frequency of data in continuous intervals.	
18. Correlation coefficient	r. The difference between the highest and lowest values.	
19. Positive correlation	s. The middle score in a data set.	
20. Negative correlation	t. A distribution that is not symmetrical.	

Task 2 – Conduct a mini memory experiment – Psychologists do this a lot!

This experiment explores the capacity of short-term memory – how much information we can hold! Find at least 4 people to take part in your experiment – you’re more than welcome to include yourself as well!

Jacobs (1887)

Jacobs devised a technique called the ‘serial digit span’ which requires participants to recall a set of digits/letters in the order they were presented. The experimenter needs to read out the lines of numbers one line at a time. Use a flat steady voice. Do not repeat or speed up/slow down (about one number per second).

Once you have read the line of numbers say ‘GO’, and the participants must immediately write down the numbers in the correct order.

- 814
- 2531
- 93829
- 138293
- 0512486
- 18329598
- 464831429
- 2639816408
- 85143962845
- 921658348943

Mark the participants’ responses and identify the longest line they got correct. The number of digits in that line is the participant’s **digit span**.

Now try it with letters! The number of letters in the line they get up to is their **letter span**.

- RDP
- JKFL
- MBZQR
- HGLTYN
- WXNDEPK
- CBRAYPOM
- VTQLEMHZN
- SPKJDUWOBR
- YLTVXZRAMNP
- QUHZNCXDPGTA

Participant name	Digit Span	Letter Span

Reflection Questions:

Jacobs found participants remembered 9.3 numbers and 7.3 letters on average. How do your participants compare?

Why might numbers be easier to remember than letters?



State-Dependent Retrieval and Chlorpheniramine

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Title of Article/Piece of Wider Reading: State-dependent retrieval and chlorpheniramine	
Source: Hunan Psychopharmacology Clinical and experimental journal	Date of Publication: 1998
Researchers: Carter & Cassaday	
Summary of Article:	

What key words have been used in this article? Select 5 key words and complete their definitions below.		
Keyword:		Definition:
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Date Completed:

Feedback:

Teacher Checked	Purple	Blue	Green	Yellow	Orange
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