



SHSB
FORTI NIHIL DIFFICILE

PSYCHOLOGY BIG QUESTION PROJECT



— A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY SUMMER TRANSITION TASK —



WELCOME TO A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and experience. Over the next two years, you will explore some of the most fascinating and controversial questions about what it means to be human.

Before joining us in September, we invite you to undertake your first challenge as a psychologist.



THE CHALLENGE

Choose **ONE** of the following questions:

- 1 Can we trust our memories?
- 2 Are criminals born or made?
- 3 Why do people follow the crowd?
- 4 Can video games make us violent?
- 5 Are we products of our genes or our environment?
- 6 Do we really have free will?
- 7 Why do people believe things that aren't true?
- 8 What causes mental illness?
- 9 Is social media changing the way we think and behave?
- 10 Why do ordinary people commit extraordinary acts?



YOUR MISSION

Investigate your chosen question and present your findings in any format you wish.

For example, you might produce:



A PowerPoint presentation



A short documentary or video



A podcast



A written report



An infographic or poster



A website or digital presentation

The format is entirely up to you. We are interested in the quality of your thinking rather than the medium you choose.

YOUR INVESTIGATION SHOULD INCLUDE



WHY DOES THIS QUESTION MATTER?

Explain why you chose your question and why you think it is important.



WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE SUGGEST?

Research your question using a range of reliable sources. Consider whether the evidence points towards one explanation or whether the issue is more complex.



ARE THERE COMPETING EXPLANATIONS?

Psychology rarely offers simple answers. Explore different arguments and perspectives and consider the strengths and limitations of each.



REACH A CONCLUSION

Based on the evidence you have encountered, which explanation do you find most convincing, and why?



SUBMISSION

Please submit your completed project during your first Psychology lesson in September.

- There is no required length and no prescribed format. We are interested in the quality of your thinking and engagement with your chosen question rather than the quantity of work produced.
- Outstanding projects may be showcased within the department.



SUGGESTED SOURCES

You may find the following useful:

- The British Psychological Society
- TED Talks
- BBC Future
- New Scientist
- Scientific American
- Psychology Today
- Reputable newspapers and documentaries



AN ADDITIONAL CHALLENGE

As you investigate your question, ask yourself:

WHAT EVIDENCE WOULD MAKE ME CHANGE MY MIND?

The best psychologists are not those who seek confirmation of what they already believe, but those who are willing to challenge their own assumptions.



TOP TIPS

- ✓ Be curious.
- ✓ Use reliable sources.
- ✓ Consider alternative explanations.
- ✓ Support your conclusions with evidence.
- ✓ Enjoy exploring your chosen question.



We look forward to discovering the questions you choose to explore and to welcoming you to Psychology in September.

