

Hello Everyone

I hope you are all well and working hard to ensure you are ready to start your A level study in September. I have enclosed a power point and a worksheet for you to complete before your first lesson. Obviously I would normally spend time explaining the content to you and though I can't do this in person I have attempted to provide enough guidance in this letter for you to work through the power point independently. In this lesson you will start to understand the scientific basis of psychology..

A01 = descriptive information

A03 = evaluative information, e.g. - discussion of strengths and limitations; evidence supporting or challenging, issues and debates

Slide 1 - For every lesson in psychology you will be given a power point. At the start of the power point there is a title slide which contains the **information from the specification** provided by the exam board.

Slide 2 - This is followed by a slide called **Need to Know**. This gives a more precise outline of the knowledge you need to have to answer exam questions. These learning objectives are also used as headings for your notes which should be based on both your power point and your textbook. The marks following each learning objective are a guideline to how much you need to write in your notes.

Slide 3 - Background Information. This is to help your understanding and give some depth to your knowledge, you are not required to know about the specific examples here of pseudoscience but you are required to explain why examples of research in novel scenarios are or are not scientific. Make sure you understand all of the key terms here.

Slide 4 - Objectivity - Read carefully and ensure you understand

Slide 5 - Objectivity - Complete the questions. Try and get someone else at home to do this with you or discuss it with one of your classmates. Make sure you understand the difference between objective knowledge and subjective knowledge before you start. We will go through your answers at our first lesson.

Slide 6 - Objectivity - Find out who Karl Popper is and why he is a famous scientist. Think about why the information on this slide is evaluative.

Slide 7 - Replicability and Reliability - Ensure you understand how to find out if research findings are reliable and can explain why it is important that all research is tested for reliability - you might want to apply your understanding to a real life example.

Slides 8 - 9 - Background understanding on how science works

Slides 10-12 - These are very important slides as they describe the method used by scientists to find out whether knowledge gained through experiments is true and accurate.

The concept of falsification is crucial here as it is impossible to prove anything beyond all doubt, what scientists try to do is disprove their hypothesis (i.e. falsify it). If they can say the likelihood of their null hypothesis being true is less than 5% (sometimes 1%) then they can accept their experimental hypothesis.

Slide 13 - many of the studies we will look at in psychology are lab studies so the info on this slide is very useful as you can apply in so many instances.

Slide 14-16 Paradigms and Paradigm shifts - Need to know the basics here but this knowledge is also useful for describing changes in the research focus in psychology and how changes in technology have driven these changes.

Slide 17 - Hyperlink to a Ted Talk by Ben Goldacre, highly recommended.

Also enclosed are some examples of exam questions on this topic with mark schemes

I look forward to meeting you all in September and discussing all of the features of science with you.

Have a lovely summer

Mrs Grant