

Welcome to A level Psychology Taster Tasks 2020

Included in this pack are the following activities:

Title of Tasks	Purpose of Task:	Time to be taken	Outcome Expected
Task 1: The Development of Psychology as a Separate Scientific Discipline	To develop an understanding of how Psychology separated itself from Philosophy and began to establish itself as a distinct "scientific" discipline	3 hours	1) 250-300 biography of Wilhelm Wundt 2) Timeline of research in Psychology – 50 words per description of each branch (300 words)
Task 2: What is "Science" and is Psychology a true science?	To understand what scientific principles are and which ones apply/don't apply to Psychology	2-3 hours	Completed table 300-500 words Summary statement – Do you think Psychology is a Science and Why? 100 words
Task 3: Practical Investigation "What is Psychology and is it useful"	To develop research skills by carrying out a small-scale psychological investigation using a questionnaire	4-5 hours	Written up practical, including Aim, Procedure, Results, Conclusion and evaluation 500 words plus tables of results and graphs

Task 1: The Development of Psychology as a Separate Scientific Discipline

Psychology is generally considered to be a separate scientific discipline. However, it was originally part of Philosophy, and only became separate in the last 150 years or so. As such, it is a relatively new discipline and has changed rapidly. This task enables you to explore how it began as a discipline and how it has changed over its short time.

- 1) Research Wilhelm Wundt. Go to: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/wundt.html> and read thoroughly. Maybe make some rough notes as you go to keep track of key points.
- 2) Cross reference this source against <https://www.verywellmind.com/who-is-the-father-of-psychology-2795249> – which points are agreed? This will help you decide what to include in your biography.
- 3) REDUCE this information into a brief biography of Wilhelm Wundt (250-300 words) – concentrate on how he developed Psychology as a science; the use of labs; the scientific methods; the key principles
- 4) Research the different approaches in Psychology. Go to <https://www.simplypsychology.org/perspective.html> and read thoroughly. Make rough notes to remember the key principles/assumptions of each of the approaches
- 5) Go to <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/learning-approaches-social-learning-theory> to learn about Social Learning Theory – this is an approach that developed from Behaviourism but is considered different enough to be its own approach.
- 6) Create a timeline, putting each approach into its chronological order. REDUCE your description of each approach to around 50 words. Include: Behaviourism, Social Learning Theory, Psychodynamic, Humanism, Cognitive and Biological Psychology. Please feel free to add pictures and colour to make it more memorable.

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Task 2: What is “Science” and is Psychology a true science?

- 1) Use the following website to learn what the key features of Science are:
<https://www.simplypsychology.org/science-psychology.html>
- 2) Use this information to fill in the first column of the table below.
- 3) Read the rest of this webpage and compare with the information from:
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/theory-knowledge/201601/the-is-psychology-science-debate>
- 4) Add any further key features you have found from this article. You should now have at least 6 points in addition to the example point.
- 5) Use the information from both articles to complete the other 2 columns making the argument for and against Psychology being a science. The first row is completed as an example of what to write (I’ve tried to example the most difficult point).
- 6) Title: “Table showing key features of Science and Arguments For and Against Psychology being a Science”

Key Feature of Science	Arguments FOR	Arguments AGAINST
ONE PARADIGM: All areas of study are part of the same paradigm - a single, unifying law that underpins all explanations and research (E.g. Biology is underpinned by exploring cells, Physics; energy)	Psychology could be said to be joined by the underpinning idea that research looks to explain the human mind and behaviour.	There are many different approaches in Psychology, and some are completely opposed; Behaviourism says all behaviour is learnt, whilst the Biological approach says behaviour is inherited – there is no cross over that underpins both explanations

- 7) Create a summary statement based on your research – Do you think Psychology is a Science, and why do you think this?

Task 3: Practical Investigation “What is Psychology and is it useful”

Create a questionnaire to find out what your friends and family think Psychology is, and if they think it is useful to society (and why?). Go to <https://www.simplypsychology.org/questionnaires.html> to research questionnaires in Psychology. Use technology to distribute your questionnaire remotely, but do not be surprised if you don’t get many responses. Use at least one open question but use mainly closed questions or questions with limited options or scales of agreement. Aim for about 5 questions.

Analyse your results in whatever way you wish – mean, median, mode, tables, graphs.....

Write up your study with an Aim, Procedure, Results and Conclusion

Evaluate your study in terms of how RELIABLE and VALID you think it is. To find out more about reliability and validity in Psychology, go to:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/validity>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/reliability>