

AQA A Level Psychology Induction Task

Task 1

Your Thoughts

Write a response to one of the following statements, showing **two viewpoints**:

'A person's environment has more of an impact on their development than their genetics do.' Or **'People are easily influenced by those around them and usually go along with the crowd'**.

We expect at least one side of A4 work which has been carefully checked for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Task 2

Research practice

You will need to learn a lot of research over the next two years, so you might as well get started now! Research the following two studies:

- Watson's study of 'Little Albert'
- Milgram's study on obedience

Fill in the summary table below, describing what their **aim** was, what they **did**, what they **found**, any **criticisms** you can find and then consider your reaction to the research (do the findings surprise you?).

	Watson	Milgram
Aim		
Methods		

Findings		
Criticisms		
Your reactions to the research		

The 5 Approaches

In Year 12, you will learn about four Psychological approaches.

Research them and find a definition for each one to put into the boxes. Then fill in the boxes underneath.

Behaviourist approach	
Biological approach	

Cognitive approach	
Social Learning theory	
Name one difference you notice between two of the approaches.	
Name one way two of them are similar.	

Wider research:

Select **at least two** of the following psychology TED Talks that sound interesting to you. Each talk will introduce you to a topic area not directly covered within the A Level course in order to show you the diverse nature of psychology.

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOCUH7TxHRI>

How we read each other's minds, Rebecca Saxe According to Saxe, a professor of neuroscience at MIT, you don't need tarot cards or ESP to read people's minds. A functioning right temporo-parietal junction will do just fine. In her talk, Saxe explains how this brain region allows humans to be uncannily good at sensing other people's feelings, thoughts, and motivations.

2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgRlrBI-7Yg&disable_polymer=true

The riddle of experience vs. memory, Daniel Kahneman If you're looking for highly credentialed TED speakers, Kahneman's résumé won't fail to impress. A Nobel Prize-winning psychologist and bestselling author, Kahneman uses his 20 minutes on the TED

stage to explain that there are actually two flavours of happiness: the kind we experience in the moment and the kind we experience in our memories. Maximizing your own well-being in life means keeping both in mind.

3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO6XEQIsCoM>

The paradox of choice, Barry Schwartz More choice is always better, right? Not according to Schwartz, a psychologist who argues that having to decide which of approximately 6,000 brands of similar toothpaste to buy "has made us not freer but more paralyzed, not happier but more dissatisfied.

4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9X68dm92HVI>

Are we in control of our own decisions?, Dan Ariely This talk "uses classic visual illusions and Ariely's own counterintuitive (and sometimes shocking) research findings to show how we're not as rational as we think when we make decisions.

5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXleFJCqSPs>

Flow, the secret to happiness, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi In this talk, legendary psychologist Csikszentmihalyi dares to ask one of life's biggest questions: What makes us happy? The answer isn't fame or money, he insists, but flow -- that lost-in-time feeling you get when you focus intensely on work you're good at.

6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCvmsMzIF7o>

The power of vulnerability, Brené Brown One of the top-five-most-popular TED Talks of all time, this moving account of Brown's own struggles with shame and control weaves together sometimes hilarious personal anecdotes with hard research to convince viewers that forging real connections requires the bravery to be vulnerable.

Summarise the two talks in **one paragraph** for each talk, explaining how it interested you.