

A Level Psychology



Scan for Specification

Our two-year A-Level covers a broad range of theories and concepts. Many of these theories are based on classic research evidence from the fields of biological, behaviourist, cognitive and social psychology. As part of the course, you will learn about some of this research.

LITERACY TASK

BEFORE YOU START

- Key textbook to purchase: Flanagan et al (2015) The Complete Companion for Eduqas Year 1 and AS Psychology Student Book. ISBN 13: 978-0198356103.
- Key Website: British Psychological Society (BPS) Ethical code of conduct - <https://www.bps.org.uk/guideline/bps-code-human-research-ethics> (click the ink at the end of the page to download the code).

In order to ensure that psychological research is ethical psychologists follow a set of guidelines for research involving human participants.

Research the following key terms associated with ethical research:

- Respect
- Competence
- Responsibility
- Integrity

Explain why each is essential when conducting research.

Psychologists have been notoriously unethical in their historical studies with both animal and human participants.

To get an idea of psychological research in 'social psychology' watch the following documentary:

[Psychology: The Stanford Prison Experiment - BBC Documentary \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K11D6111111) (30 mins)

This documentary outlines the research of eminent psychologists Milgram (1963) and Zimbardo (1973). As you are watching the documentary you should note down anything that you find disturbing about the research.

Things to think about:

1. Have they been told the full truth about the purpose of the study?
2. Do any of them face psychological distress as a result of participating?



Research skills are an essential part of the psychology course. As part of the second unit, you will learn about and apply research methods terminology. Two key terms that you will become very familiar with are reliability and validity (definitions below).

Taking each study separately, comment upon whether Milgram's (1963) research and Zimbardo's (1973) research are reliable. Are these studies also valid?

Reliability refers to consistency:

1. Was the research conducted in the same way for every participant?
2. Was the environment/setting controlled (identical for each person)?
3. Could we repeat the study and get similar results?

Validity refers to truth:

1. Does the environment have 'mundane realism' (is it like real life)?
2. Are the participants used representative of (similar to) the wider population?

Research and list 5 jobs that you could only undertake if you had BPS chartered membership.

Choose two from the list and outline the role and expectations in more detail.

Review those three to show why you would be interested or suitable for that **career**.

CAREERS TASK

KNOW THIS TASK

DO THIS TASK