

Psychology A-Level Summer Work

Objectives

- To appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of the case study research method
- To summarise the main elements of three case studies
- To assess your levels of motivation to study Psychology
- To assess your written communication skills

Psychologists use a variety of research methods to investigate human behaviour. One of these methods is the case study which is usually employed to examine the behaviour of individuals who have experienced a rare event making their behaviour quite unique.

TASK:

1. Watch the YouTube clips below and summarise what happened, what was found and **how the person's behaviour can be explained**

You can do this in any way you think is most appropriate. E.g. mind map, pictures (story board), linear notes in paragraphs etc

You should use 1 A4 page for each case study

- a) Clive Wearing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipD_G7U2FcM
- b) Little Albert <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xt0ucxOrPQE>
- c) Charles Whitman https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIPDTvjBbu0&list=PLYT8Z-QQsbuc0Gwc_xX-7DjgweH2Zz0X8&index=8

2. The people featured in these clips were investigated using the case study method.

Explain the **strengths** and **weaknesses** of using the **case study** method to investigate human behaviour. Try to link your points to some aspect of the case study you outlined in task 1.

Develop your understanding further by **comparing the case study method to the experimental method**.

You can do this in any way you think is most appropriate. E.g. mind map, pictures (story board), linear notes in paragraphs etc

You should use 1 page of A4

You could use a textbook or a website such as:

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/case-study.html>

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/experimental-method.html>

You could extend your understanding by completing an additional activity outlined below:

Basic: Describe three of the psychological approaches

Define each of these approaches to psychology and give an example of a piece of research that illustrates the approach

Approach	Definition	Example
Cognitive		
Learning/Behaviourist		
Biological		

Intermediate: Explore how psychological research is done.

- Define open question, closed question, Likert scale, sample, random sampling, systematic, stratified, opportunity and volunteer
- Write 5 questions to investigate why people choose to take psychology at A-level
- Explain why you would use either a questionnaire or interview
- Describe which sampling technique you would use and justify this decision.

Advanced: Read an original psychological study

- Read this study, highlight all the key terms and make a glossary.
- Loftus research <https://webfiles.uci.edu/eloftus/LoftusPalmer74.pdf>
- Summarise the study by describing what the study did and what it found