



# Welcome to Psychology

## Psychology Induction Lesson



# Introduction to psychology

Psychology is the **scientific study** of **behaviours** and **mental functions**



<https://create.kahoot.it/details/e60e366b-33cd-43fb-8635-e22a606d72ab>

# What do Psychologists study?

## In Year 1 Psychology we study:

- **Biological Psychology** – What makes people aggressive? Are criminals born or made?
- **Cognitive Psychology** – How do we recall information? Why is our memory for crimes inaccurate?
- **Learning Psychology** – Do role models influence behaviour? How can the media influence our behaviour?
- **Social Psychology** – Why do we discriminate against others? Why do we follow orders from 'authority'?
- **Research Methods** – How do Psychologists conduct psychological research?



## In Year 2 Psychology we study:

- **Clinical Psychology** – How are people with mental illnesses diagnosed and treated? How is mental health portrayed in the media?
- **Child Psychology** – How does our childhood influence our adult behaviour? What is Autism?
- **Issues & Debates** – Is Psychology a Science? Is behaviour due to nature or nurture? How has psychological knowledge benefited society?



# Topic area: prejudice



**In pairs....**

→ what do we mean by prejudice? Can you give an example?

→ why is prejudice an important topic to study and explain?



## Psychology in the real world: prejudice

Prejudice. It is such a relevant and powerful subject in society at the moment

The killing of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests seen across the world are evidence that racial prejudice still exists in our society.

Within Psychology we look at the cause of prejudice to try to understand how we can remove it from society.

- ☐ Is it a learned behaviour ?
- ☐ Are we born with Prejudice



# How can we study prejudice?

Jane was a Primary School teacher in Riceville Iowa. Her all white, third grade class was reacting to the death of Martin Luther King the day before, asking who he was and what had happened. America was in the middle of racial segregation and the divide between black and white Americans was wide.

She wanted to teach them a lesson about Prejudice and racism which would help them to understand what racism means.

## Jane Elliott Study (1968)

To think about.....

- Were there any ethical issues with this research?
- Do you think this study would be allowed to be conducted today?
- Do you think that the study's findings justified **how** it was carried out? (did the 'end justify the means'?)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLAi78hluFc>

# Jane Elliot 1968

## What were the ethical issues?

- Students are too young to give **informed consent**
- They could not **withdraw** from the study if they were distressed
- Jane was not a qualified Psychologist

However – it does demonstrate that prejudiced views and behaviours are formed by society and are learned. Therefore they can be unlearned.

We need research evidence to support our theories and provide them with validity and scientific credibility.



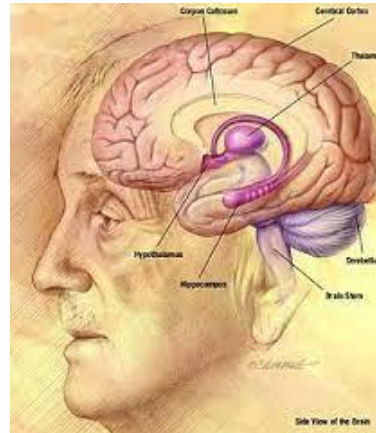




# Psychology



## Cognitive Psychology: memory and forgetting



# What do we mean by cognition?



*What examples are there of cognitive processing in our daily lives?*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJG698U2Mvo> - demonstrates an important concept in cognitive psychology

# Cognition - selective attention and the gorilla!

- we miss a lot of what goes on around us
- we have no idea that we are missing so much!

Why is focusing our attention on one detail (selective attention) so important to us as humans?



Can you think of any everyday examples of selective attention?

# What is memory?

It's a term we use very often, but can you define what it means?

Can you use any key terms?



**How good is your memory?**



**Conveyor belt challenge!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RpjDnol1Fo>

# How good is your memory?



## Conveyor belt challenge!

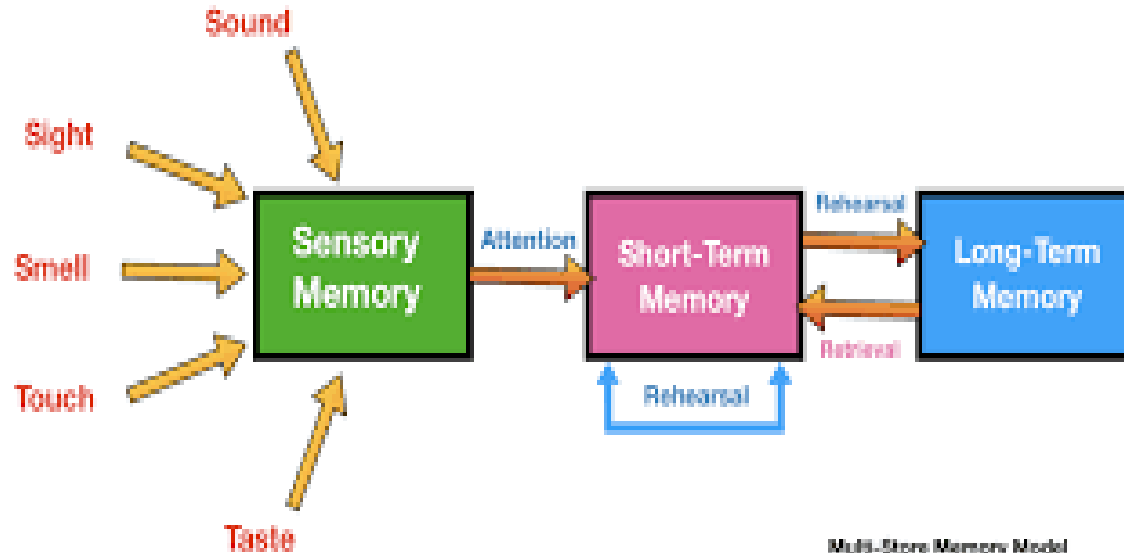
- how many items did you remember?
- did you remember any 'false memories' or items that weren't there?
- did you use any strategy to help you remember?

### EXT:

- Are there different types of memories?
- What type of memory did you use for this task?



# How can we describe memory?



Multi-Store Memory Model  
Atkinson & Shiffrin (1968)

→ which parts of memory did you use in the conveyor belt activity?

→ if you were to do the task again, what strategy could you use to help you recall more items?

# Researching memory using experiments

Cognitive psychologists use laboratory experiments to investigate different types of memory (e.g. short-term and long-term)

- From your science studies, re-cap the key features of experiments
- can all of these features be used in psychological experiments?



# Class Memory Experiment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CH50zuS8DD0>



- You will be split up into 2 groups
- Make sure you have a pen, paper/mini-whiteboard at the ready
- You will be given a list of words face down on your table
- When your teacher tells you to turn them over you will have 60 seconds to remember as many words as you can (don't write any down!)
- you will then be told to turn the paper face down and recall as many words as you can on your paper/whiteboard

# What were we looking at ?

- what was the independent variable?
- what was the dependent variable?
- were there any other controls?
- how could we analyse the results?

## Group 1

Mouse	Potato	Ruler	Netball
Rabbit	Egg	Pencil	Snooker
Dog	Lettuce	Paper	Football
Squirrel	Chocolate	Diary	Polo
Elephant	Pasta	Rubber	Fencing
Horse	cheese	Stapler	Gymnastics

## Group 2

Snooker	Potato	Pasta	Netball
Rabbit	Egg	Chocolate	Ruler
Dog	Lettuce	Paper	Football
Cheese	Elephant	Horse	Squirrel
Gymnastics	Pencil	Polo	Fencing
Stapler	Diary	Mouse	Rubber

# Results - how many words did you recall?

Categorised words	Uncategorised words

# A bit of maths



## Descriptive statistics:

	mean	median	mode	range
Categorised words				
Uncategorised words				

What do these descriptive statistics tell us?

Did we find out anything about memory?

EXT:

How might the results from our experiment be applied to the real world?

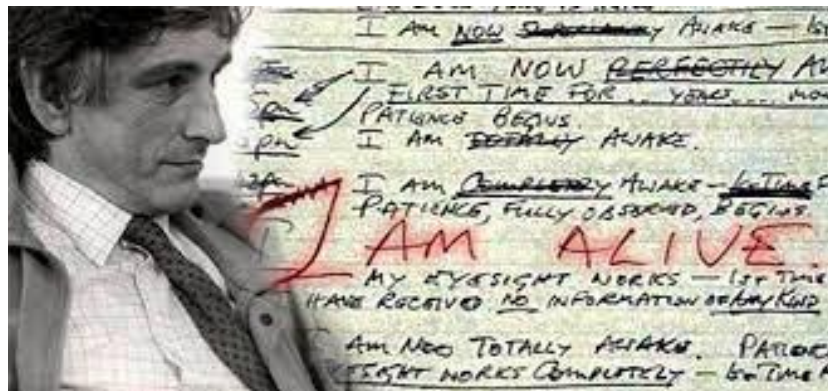
What are the strengths and weaknesses of using laboratory experiments in psychology - can you apply to the study we did?





# What would life be like if you couldn't make any new memories?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7pLmM2r6Kw>

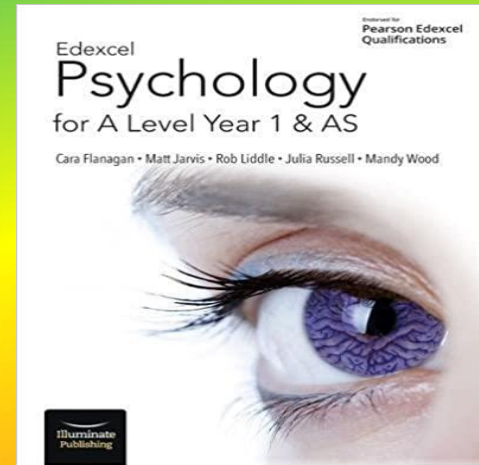


## To think about.....

- What factors can cause amnesia?
- What ethical issues might be involved when studying patients with amnesia?
- it what ways can we rehabilitate individuals with amnesia?

# What you need to do now...

- Summer work (Presdales website - Sixth Form - Psychology) - Deadline: first day back in September
- <https://presdales.herts.sch.uk/psychology/#tab-id-4> - all main tasks need to be completed but there are some optional extension tasks in pink which will further your knowledge.
- Buy a textbook - you can buy yourself over the summer or buy a preloved copy in September (£10)
- Folder and dividers (you will need a folder per teacher/topic and 9 dividers per folder)



# What can you get involved in now?

- download the Research Digest App which digests all the latest and most interesting research in psychology
- do some wider reading/watching (see extra section at the end of the psychology induction summer work)
- think about whether you might like to help run psychology club later on in the year or help out in the department as a psychology prefect



# Any Questions?

