



SUMMER BRIDGING WORK 2026

Summer Bridging Work is an important part of your transition to Wilberforce Sixth Form College. This piece of work will count towards your effort grade. Please complete your summer bridging work in time for the start of term.

You are required to bring evidence in paper format (Please write/print your answers on A4 paper) **and hand this in to your subject teacher during your first lesson.**

Psychology

OVERVIEW OF SUBJECT: Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour.

ENTRY CRITERIA : A minimum of 5 GCSEs (9-4), including English Language. Maths content aware – GCSE grade 5

Task 1:

Research the history and development of psychology. Research the origins and development of the following approaches in psychology: **Psychoanalysis, Behaviourism, Social, Cognitive, Biological**. Find out the theories in each area, how they explain behaviour and who the major psychologists are. Write a report (in your own words) on these areas of psychology (minimum 500 words). As you progress through the course you will look at a range of theories in each area and evaluate the usefulness of psychological findings from these approaches. Understanding the history of psychology from the beginning will make you a better psychologist.

Task 2:

At least 10% of the marks in assessments for Psychology will require the use of mathematical skills. These skills include interpreting data from graphs and tables, calculating patterns and trends in data such as the mean and standard deviation, and statistical tests. Don't worry, you will learn how to do the statistics during the course. There are some maths skills that you should already have before you start the course and this task will help you practice them. Please write your answers on A4 paper that you will hand in to your teacher in your first lesson in September

DATA SET 1

Looks tasty? A psychologist wanted to investigate how expectations influence our perception of food. To do this she conducted an experiment where she presented one group of participants a bag of crisps labelled as 'premium range' in a bright and colourful packet. A different group of participants were presented with the same crisps but labelled as 'budget range' in a plain packet. After eating some of the crisps participants were asked to rate how tasty they were on a scale of 1 ('yuk') to 20 ('yummy').

Premium labelled brand	Budget labelled brand
14	8
18	3
20	10
8	6
18	18
12	14
10	8
19	4
15	7
16	8
18	8
12	2

1. Calculate the mean, median and mode for each condition. Display your calculations in a table like this one.

	Mean	Median	Mode
Premium labelled brand crisps			
Budget labelled brand crisps			

2. Draw a bar chart to display the difference in the ratings for each type of crisp (the mean scores). Make sure that it is clearly labelled
3. Outline two conclusions that can be drawn about this experiment (*hint: what does it tell about how our expectations influence our perceptions of food*)

DATA SET 2:

A psychologist conducted an observation study to investigate how people react when walking towards each other along a corridor in a building where lots of different office staff work. To do this, she asked for permission to set up hidden cameras for a day to record people's encounters along one of the main corridors connecting one part of the building to another. The results from the study are shown in the table below.

Table 1: Different behaviours observed as two people approach each other in a corridor

Avoids eye contact	Smiles	Says hello	Makes eye contact	Nods	Total
80	48	40	24	8	200

4. What is the **ratio** of the number of times people avoided eye contact to the number of times people said hello?
5. What is the **mode** for the type of behaviour observed by people as they approach other in the corridor?
6. Draw a pie chart to show the data recorded in this study
7. In a follow up study conducted a month later that recorded 310 behaviours in total, the researcher noted that people avoided eye contact 125 times. Write this as a percentage to two significant figures.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Below we have listed four careers linked to psychology. You are tasked to research the four careers, choose one that most appeals to you (or any other career in psychology) and write a 200-word essay as to why you feel this career would be most suited to you.

Clinical Psychologist
Prison Psychologist
Educational Psychologist
Teacher

Kind regards

Lynne Quinn

Faculty Head for Science and Humanities

If you have any queries regarding your Summer Bridging Work, please contact me via email lq@wilberforce.ac.uk I will aim to respond before your enrolment appointment.