

Btec Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology



Year 11 Transition work

Psychopathology



Psychopathology is all about psychological (mental) disorders. It involves defining them, understanding and explaining them, preventing and treating them. Mental disorders can have significant impact on the life of an individual with the condition and those around them.

There are many different types of mental disorders and within these there are lots of variations in the level of mental distress people suffer and the severity of their conditions. We will consider the following conditions as part of Unit 6;

- **Schizophrenia** – This is severe form of psychosis. It is characterised by a person having difficulty distinguishing between what is real and what isn't. People will often experience hallucinations and delusions which reduces their awareness of their own mental state.
- **Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder** – This is an anxiety-based disorder that is characterised by the presence of obsessions and compulsions in the individual's thoughts and behaviours. These leave to high levels of distress
- **Phobias** - A phobia is an overwhelming and debilitating fear of an object, place, situation, feeling or animal. Phobias are more pronounced than fears. They develop when a person has an exaggerated or unrealistic sense of danger about a situation or object.
- **Eating disorders** – These are a group of disorders that are characterised by unusual eating habits. There are two main types of eating disorders; Anorexia nervosa and Bulimia nervosa.
- **Depression** – This is characterised by severe and persistent feelings of sadness that interferes with everyday life. It is a condition that affects thoughts, motivation and behaviour.

Please carry out research into each of these conditions. You should produce an information leaflet that includes the following information;

- **An explanation of what each condition is**
- **Signs and symptoms of each condition**
- **How the condition may be treated.**

The following websites would be a good place for you to start your research;

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/types-of-mental-health-problems>

<https://www.rethink.org/advice-and-information/about-mental-illness/learn-more-about-conditions>

Please include as much detail as possible. Make sure you have examples in your answers and have fully explained what each condition involves, including the different types of that condition.

Psychological studies

In Psychology there are different approaches to the way we can explain human behaviour. Each approach is based on a set of principles that try to explain given behaviour. The first approach we will look at is the social approach. This considers the effects of people, society and culture on our behaviour.

Phillip Zimbardo carried out a study that has become known as The Stanford Prison Experiment (1973). He wanted to investigate how readily people would conform to the roles of guard and prisoner in a role-playing exercise that simulated prison life.



Zimbardo (1973) was interested in finding out whether the brutality reported among guards in American prisons was due to the sadistic personalities of the guards or had more to do with the prison environment.

Produce a report that describes this research study. You will need to include information on the aim, procedure, results and conclusions.

Explain the results and conclusions of this study, using psychological concepts of conformity and obedience.

What does this research tell us about how the roles that people undertake and how these roles shape their behaviour?

You could use the following resources to help you;

www.prisonexp.org

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/zimbardo.html>

Please email your completed work to Mrs Hyde at KHyde@fromecollege.org by 3pm on 13 September 2024