**Assessment Task: Year 11 Unit 2**

**TYPE:** RESEARCH PRODUCTION

**OUTCOMES:** Outcome 1: Psychological understandings;

Outcome 3: Applying and relating psychological understandings;

Outcome 4: Communication in psychology

**CONTENT:** Unit 2 – The Psychology of Personality

**Task 11: Historical Development of Modern Personality Theories**

**Total Marks (% Weighting): 40 marks (10% of semester mark)**

**DUE DATE:** Friday, September 11th 2015

**OUTPUT**: TIMELINE presented as a PAMPHLET

Background:

In this task, *you will explore what is meant by the term personality and examine how present theories of personality have evolved over time*. The most common and current definition refers to personality as “characteristic ways of thinking, feeling and acting that makes us individual” (Fletcher & Garton, 2007). Another definition states that personality is an individual’s unique and relatively consistent group of characteristics that determines patterns of thoughts, feelings and behaviour when alone or with others (Grivas & Carter, 2005). Often, however, words like ‘temperament’, ‘mood’, and ‘character’ are used interchangeably when referring to one’s personality.

In the time of ancient Egypt, people believed that one’s personality was linked to the alignment of celestial bodies, similar to interpretations of astrology. The first recognizable theory of personality is credited to the Greek philosopher Hippocrates (460-370 BCE). He described personality as being determined by the four ‘humours’ (body fluids). Galen (129–200 AD), a Greek physician, supported this idea by proposing that an excess, or imbalance of body fluids was what caused a person to behave in particular ways. Personality, according to these Greek thinkers, was classified under four temperaments - choleric, sanguine, melancholic and phlegmatic. *Choleric* people suffered from an excess of yellow bile and were said to be easily angered and bad tempered. *Sanguine* people had too much blood and were courageous and optimistic, whereas *melancholic* people experienced too much black bile and were pessimistic and irritable. *Phlegmatic* people had an excess of phlegm and were considered calm and unemotional. Not only was the four ‘humours’ used to predict a person’s behaviour, it was also used to predict susceptibility to disease. Galen believed that if one of these humours was in excess, then treatments such as blood letting would be used to bring the humour back into balance. As primitive as it sounds, this ancient theory of categorising and explaining personality was very influential such that one of the most popular modern personality psychologist, Hans Eysenck (1916-1997), referred to these terms in his own theory of personality that he published in the 1960’s.

Over the last century, personality psychologists have developed a range of theories in an attempt to describe and explain how personality develops, why individual personality is unique, how and why ‘abnormal’ or ‘unhealthy’ personalities develop, and how individuals with ‘abnormalities’ in personality can be treated or prevented from occurring. Each theory provides its own perspective when attempting to understand, explain and interpret the often-complicated pattern of thoughts, feelings, and behaviour.

**TASK DESCRIPTION**:

You need to research **on-line** or using **printed resources like books, journals, and science magazines** about three major theories of personality and the individual theorists that have shaped modern interpretations of personality development. Your research will be presented as a foldout **‘timeline pamphlet’** of **no more than four (4) single-sided A4 sheets**:

The following details should be included in your timeline:

i. The title and a current psychological definition of ‘personality’

ii. Historical perspectives of each of the following Psychologists under the following headings:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Main Theory | Theorist |
| *Psychodynamic Theory* | *Sigmund Freud* |
| *Trait Theory* | *Hans & Sybil Eysenck*  *Gordon Allport* |
| *Humanistic Theory* | *Abraham Maslow* |

The theories should be presented chronologically in the timeline.

iii. Description of how each theorist defined personality

iv. Include dates and summary of relevant research

iiv. Description of how each theorist contributed to current understandings of personality development

iiiv. A summary of the key contributions and limitations of each of the main theories.

ix. Evaluation of what the current psychological perspective is of personality and personality development

On the back of your timeline you will put your references done in the correct Harvard referencing style and your marking key attached with a staple or paperclip for me to remove for marking.

Please ensure you use your own words to summarise and **NOT cut and paste**

Your timeline could look something like this:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |

This is the maximum number of sheets you may use. Excess to this will result in loss of marks.

**Timeframe:** You will have **two (2)** weeks to prepare your timeline.

**Marking key: Task 11 Research Production**

**Unit 2. Historical perspectives of personality (10 % of semester mark)**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**MARKING KEY:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | Maximum mark | Mark Achieved |
| **Introduction** | **1** | **/1** |
| * Current psychological definition of personality | 1 |  |
| **Psychodynamic theory (Freud)** | **6** | **/6** |
| * Definition / description of personality | 1-2 |  |
| * Summary of relevant research including year conducted and/or published | 1-2 |  |
| * Contribution to current understandings of personality development | 2 |  |
| **Trait theory (Eysenck and Allport)** | **12** | **/12** |
| Eysenck: |  |  |
| * Definition / description of personality | 1-2 |  |
| * Summary of relevant research including year conducted and/or published | 1-2 |  |
| * Contribution to current understandings of personality | 1-2 |  |
| Gordon Allport: |  |  |
| * Definition / description of personality | 1-2 |  |
| * Summary of relevant research including year conducted and/or published | 1-2 |  |
| * Contribution to current understandings of personality | 1-2 |  |
| **Humanistic theory (Maslow)** | **6** | **/6** |
| * Definition / description of personality | 1-2 |  |
| * Summary of relevant research including year conducted and/or published | 1-2 |  |
| * Contribution to current understandings of personality development | 1-2 |  |
| **Summary and Evaluation** | **8** | **/8** |
| * Summarizes the key contributions of each of the main theories of personality | 1-3 |  |
| * Evaluates the limitations of each of the main theories | 1-3 |  |
| * Provides an overview of what the current psychological perspective is of personality and personality development | 1-2 |  |
| **Presentation** | **2** | **/2** |
| * Produces a visually appealing timeline (1) that is neat, easy to read and follow (1) | 1-2 |  |
| **Writing Skills**: Up to 3 marks can be lost for poor writing skills | **3** | **/3** |
| * Correct paragraph organization with logical flow of ideas | 1 |  |
| * Correct sentence structure, grammar & spelling | 1 |  |
| * Correct use and application of psychological terms | 1 |  |
| **Referencing** | **2** | **/2** |
| * Provides a list of references (1) with correct use of APA or Harvard referencing style (1) | 1-2 |  |
| **Final total** | | **/40** |

**Comments:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |