**Year 12**

**Psychology**

**How to Write an Extended-Response (Essay)**

* Structure
* Language
* Referencing
* Question Styles
* Example and Answer

**Structure**

**Introduction:**

* What will you be discussing?
* Define important key terms

**Body:**

* Describe theories
* Write a paragraph addressing each dot point
* New paragraph for each theorist/theory/empirical evidence

**Conclusion:**

* Summarise what you have covered
* No new information

\*\* Must use paragraphs. You will receive a zero for the “structure” if you don’t use paragraphs.

**Language**

* Use correct psychological terminology
* Direct, formal and concise
* No waffling
* Don’t use personal experiences as evidence
* Don’t use “I” “we” “my”

**Referencing**

* For an in-class response, reference lists (end-text) and in-text referencing of evidence are not needed.
* Only in-text reference if you use a direct quote:

E.g. “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (Mayer & Salovey, 1990).

**Question Styles**

1. **Scenario**

Given a scenario or story regarding an individual. Address the question whilst defining and describing the theories relevant to the scenario.

1. **Statement and Question**

A statement is given and you answer you questions related to this statement. Usually listed as dot points.

1. **Two separate Topics/Questions in One Question**

This can be two different topics in the one question. Usually two statements and questions.

\*Always allow 30 minutes to write an extended response.

\*\*You will be given **one** essay to write in your Response Test.

(worth 20 marks)

\*\*\*You will be given **two** essays to write in your Exam.

(worth 20-30 marks each)

**Example**

*(20 marks)*

Psychologists have theorised the difference between communication styles and how languages are developed.

Describe the impact of social background and gender on communication styles. In your response you should:

* Define communication styles.
* Describe, using theorists, the impact of social background on communication.
* Describe, using theorists, the impact of gender on communication.

Describe how language has been found to be an innate behaviour. In your response you should: Use empirical evidence to explain how language development is innate.

Marks will be given for including reference to empirical evidence in your answer.

**Answer:**

Start by writing notes of what you will cover in each paragraph.

Then write this out in full. It should cover the following points:

P1: Introduction

* Define communication
* Define communication styles
* State what the essay will cover

P2: Body

* Social background
* Bernstein (1971)

OR

P2: Body

* Social background
* Labov (1970) BEV

P3: Body

* Gender differences
* Tannen (1990)

P4: Body

* Language is innate
* Chomsky (1968) LAD

P5 Conclusion:

* Summarise what was covered in the essay

*Mark allocations*

*2 marks – Introduction (1 mark for each definition)*

*5 marks – Social background: naming theorists, codes, explanations + examples*

*5 marks – gender differences: naming theorists, codes, explanations + examples*

*5 marks – innate: naming theorists, codes, explanations + examples*

*3 marks – conclusion, correct sentences, paragraphs, grammar, spelling.*