PSYCHOLOGY

GENERAL COURSE

Externally set task
Sample 2016
Note: This Externally set task sample is based on the following content from Unit 3 of the General Year 12 syllabus.

**Personality**
- personality theories
  - trait theories – Eysenck, Costa and McCrae
  - humanistic theories – Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, Rogers
  - behaviourist theories – Pavlov, Watson, Thorndike, Skinner
- social learning theory – Bandura

**Cognition**
- memory
  - multi store model of memory – Atkinson and Shiffrin (1968)
  - sensory register – duration, capacity
  - working memory (short-term memory) – duration, capacity
  - long-term memory – duration, capacity, procedural memory, declarative memory – semantic and episodic
  - strategies for enhancing retrieval of information and improving memory
    o state and context dependent cues
    o mnemonics
    o chunking
    o repetition

In future years, this information will be provided late in Term 3 of the year prior to the conduct of the Externally set task. This will enable teachers to tailor their teaching and learning program to ensure that the content is delivered prior to the students undertaking the task in Term 2 of Year 12.
Psychology

Externally set task

Working time for the task: 60 minutes
Total marks: 30 marks
Weighting: 15% of the school mark

1. Describe how information from the environment reaches long-term memory. (3 marks)

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2. Describe the role of the three (3) components of working memory. Give an everyday example of when each component would be used. (6 marks)

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3. Charlie needs to remember to buy the following items: flour, dark chocolate, baking soda, lemon, sugar, strawberries, eggs, cream, vanilla beans and butter. Explain three (3) strategies Charlie can use to enhance his memory. Outline how each strategy could be used in this situation.

(6 marks)

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4. Jessica and Sarah are both studying Psychology and have been working very hard for an upcoming test, putting in the same time and effort in preparing. On the day of the test, Jessica is far more relaxed. Explain why this difference may exist with reference to:

(a) Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
(b) Skinner’s Behaviourist Theory of Personality
(c) Bandura’s Observational Learning Theory of Personality

Your response should include a description of each theory and how it explains why Jessica is more relaxed than Sarah.

(15 marks)

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