

A Level Psychology

Exam Preparation

16 mark essay plans

Biopsychology

Creating essay plans during your revision will help you to prepare for 16 mark answers. If you can remember the basic framework for each essay this will allow you to write out a plan before attempting the answer in the exam.

List 6 points that you could mention in your AO1. Then choose 4 evaluation points that you would PEEL in the exam.

For example:

Describe and evaluate localisation of function in the brain

AO1 Definition of localisation

AO1 Functions of different lobes e.g. frontal, temporal

AO1 Functions of specific areas within these lobes e.g. language centres, auditory area, motor area

AO1 Functions of different lobes e.g. parietal, occipital

AO1 Functions of specific areas within these lobes e.g. somatosensory area, visual cortex

AO1 Localisation can also involve broader areas, for example the left and right hemispheres. Research has shown that these have different functions for example...

AO3 Brain scan evidence

AO3 Neurosurgery evidence

AO3 Case study evidence - Phineas Gage

AO3 Research to show individual differences

However, you must always *read the question carefully*. Whilst these plans will give you a framework to work from, the question may require you to adapt the information slightly or shape it to answer the question.

For example, there is a specimen question '*Robert suffered a stroke at the age of 55. After the stroke he was paralysed down his right side, though he could move his left arm and leg easily. Robert could clearly understand what was said to him, but was unable to produce any speech. Discuss how knowledge of hemispheric lateralisation and language centres in the brain has helped our understanding of cases such as Robert's. Refer to Robert's case in your answer.*'

Here, the answer would need to be shaped to discuss Broca's and Wernicke's areas and left/right hemisphere functions and strengths and weaknesses of this research

Therefore, these plans will be good preparation but you will need to think carefully about what the question is asking you and adapt your answer accordingly.

16 marker: Fight or flight response

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16 marker: Localisation of function

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16 marker: Plasticity

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16 marker: Split brain research

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16 marker: Ways of investigating the brain

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16 marker: Circadian rhythms

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16 marker: Infradian rhythms

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16 marker: Ultradian rhythms

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16 marker: Endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers

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