

# **A Level Psychology**

## **Exam Preparation**

### **16 mark essay plans**

#### **Cognition and Development**



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 Piaget's theory of Cognitive Development**

*AO1 Piaget's views - children think differently to adults*

*AO1 Child as scientist, maturation + environment*

*AO1 Learning develops through schemas - assimilation + accommodation*

*AO1 Learning develops though universal + invariant stages*

*AO1 Explain stages*

*AO1 and skills developed in these stages*

*AO3 Evidence for innate face schemas*

*AO3 Cultural bias - samples*

*AO3 Methodological problems with tests used*

*AO3 Ignores importance of social factors - link to Vygotsky*

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 'Two school inspectors are writing reports of their recent primary school observations. Mrs McLean writes, "Students worked alone. They were given tasks and materials then had to solve problems by trial and error".

Mrs Watt writes, "Students worked in pairs of differing ability so they could help each other and talk through each stage. The teacher demonstrated and advised them until they could manage on their own." Discuss Piaget's and Vygotsky's views on the development of cognition. Refer to the inspectors' comments in your answer.'

Here, the answer would need to be shaped to discuss Piaget's and Vygotsky's theories and applying them to this scenario

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: Piaget's theory**

<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	

**16 marker: Vygotsky's theory**

<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	

**16 marker: Baillargeon's research**

<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	

**16 marker: Selman's levels of perspective taking**

<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	

**16 marker: Theory of Mind**

<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	



**16 marker: Mirror neurons**

<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A01</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	
<b>A03</b>	