



# Cotswold Edge Sixth Form



<b>Subject:</b>	Psychology @CS	<b>Assessment Point 1 - Coursework</b>
<b>Title of the project:</b>	How 'scientific' was Zimbardo's Stanford prison experiment?	
<b>Due date:</b>	First lesson back September 2020	
<b>Learning skills and their place in the specification</b>	Research, evaluation and report writing. Retention and recall of subject knowledge. Research, evaluation and report writing are used throughout the specification. Retention and recall of subject knowledge are essential so that new knowledge builds on previous knowledge as the course progresses.	
<b>Specification link</b>	<a href="http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF">http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF</a>	
<b>Tasks set</b>	Research the Stanford Prison Experiment and write a report to outline the context, methodology, results and implications of this landmark study. Memorise the key facts about this experiment for a knowledge test at the start of term 1.	
<b>How this links to the exam specification</b>	The Stanford Prison Experiment is a key study in the Social Influence topic. It also introduces features of the Research Methods topic such as experimental design and ethical issues.	
<b>How to complete the task:</b>	See attached information	
<b>Resources or links</b>	See attached information	
<b>Staff contact and email address:</b>	Ms Wiffen <a href="mailto:Julie.Wiffen@chippingsodburyschool.com">Julie.Wiffen@chippingsodburyschool.com</a>	
<b>Number of learning hours it will take to complete</b>	Minimum 10 hours	

## **Psychology and the Scientific Method**

Psychologists use the 'scientific method', the method that underlies all scientific research, to investigate human behaviour.

- Scientists observe things going on in the world about them.
- They develop a tentative explanation for the things they observe and produce a hypothesis.
- In order to establish whether the hypothesis is true, they design a study to test it.
- If the hypothesis is shown to be true, then conclusions can be drawn.
- If the hypothesis is false then they think again.
- The study is evaluated by other scientists (peer review).

## **Task – Stanford Prison Experiment – Zimbardo (1971)**

**Carry out your own research into the Stanford Prison Experiment.**

Watch the YouTube video - <https://youtu.be/760lwYmpXbc> Select carefully from other internet sites to find quality information. <http://www.prisonexp.org/> is the official website for the experiment. Other useful websites include the Google interview <http://youtu.be/2YNqmrvmO8> focusing on the comments made by Zimbardo rather than Alvarez and the TED talk by Zimbardo <http://youtu.be/OsFEV35tWsg> explaining recent implications of his work. *(There is a Stanford Prison Experiment movie which is a dramatisation of the experiment. It gives a reasonably accurate representation of what happened however it should not be counted as a reliable research source.)*

**Write a report on Zimbardo's study using the side headings given on the next page. (Some advice has been included to help you identify what to include.)**

- DO NOT copy chunks of text from articles or websites. This is plagiarism. Your summary must be expressed in your own words. Pay attention to the quality of your communication. (Sentence structure, punctuation, spelling and grammar)
- The report should be approximately 1200 words long.
- Keep a list of your sources as you will need to reference them at the end of your report.
- Memorise the key facts about the study for a knowledge test at the start of term 1.

If properly completed, this task will take you at least 10 hours, including time to watch the video, research on the internet, writing up your report and memorise the key information about the experiment.

You can type or handwrite your work but it must be well presented, show good literacy skills and be handed in on the first psychology lesson of year 12.

Students' progress is assessed during the first three weeks of year 12 and your response to this task will form part of this review.

If you have problems before the end of term (23<sup>rd</sup> July) please email for advice.

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# **Report on the Stanford Prison Experiment – Zimbardo (1971)**

## **Context of Zimbardo's research in 1971**

What did Zimbardo observe going on in the world around him relating to law breaking? What assumptions were being made about prisoners?

## **Zimbardo's view of events.**

How did Zimbardo explain these events and why did this challenge what others thought? What was the hypothesis driving his research?

## **Stanford Prison Study design**

Describe the study Zimbardo designed to test his hypothesis. Include details about:

- the participants
- how they recruited the participants
- the design of the experimental 'prison' environment
- how the participants were organised and prepared for their different roles

## **Zimbardo's Findings**

What did Zimbardo find out by carrying out this experiment? What behaviour did he observe?

## **Conclusions**

What conclusions did Zimbardo's draw about the way people react under these types of conditions?

## **Peer review**

Other people evaluated Zimbardo's study and questioned whether it was valid or ethical. Give your own opinion on the validity and ethics of the experiment based on your reading. (Check the definitions of these 'key terms'.)

## **Real world applications**

How have the findings of Zimbardo's experiment been used to understand real world events?

## **Word Count**

Please include at the end of your report.

## **References**

Please list the sources of information you used for your report, include books, websites and videos.