

LESSON 1 - ASSIGNMENT

1. Submit the questionnaire, your summary, and conclusions from the set task. Ensure that you have answered the questions below in your summary and conclusions.

What did you find worked well in your questionnaire?

How would you improve it?

2. "We are all armchair psychologists."

In thinking about your interpretation of the above statement, identify as many possible risks as you can think of in applying psychology to everyday life. Chose 3 of, what you think are, the most important risks and give examples of each (e.g. a child who was previously cheerful and calm becomes overly anxious. The risk is that we might attribute the change in behaviour to just wanting attention, and not look for the actual reason which may be a bully on the street).

There is no single correct answer. Think carefully and answer to the best of your ability.

3. Observe a person whom you know well. List three of this person's behaviours (actions, attitudes, speech etc) that you think can be explained as a result of the persons Nature (biological determination). Also list three behaviours of this person that you think can be explained by Nurture (environmental influences). Give your reasons why each of these behaviours is a result of either nature or nurture.

4. Simon is 23 years old. Simon's mother was a heavy drinker. As a child, Simon had speech difficulties. His mother would ridicule him for his speech problems. His father was an aggressive man who regularly got into fights. Simon now has a stressful job in a stock broking firm. He wakes early every day and goes to the gym for an hour, before heading to work. He works long hours and often stays out drinking until the early hours of the morning. He constantly appears harassed. He has few friends, but many acquaintances. He is often verbally aggressive and occasionally physically aggressive. He believes that he is superior to others and often brags about his intellect, qualifications and wealth. He lives alone and is unable to maintain long term intimate relationships. An acquaintance suggests that he is drinking too much. Simon denies this.

Is Simon's behaviour due to nature or nurture or both? Write a paragraph to explain the reasons for your answer.

5. Observe different ways that people comply with others. Describe the different ways of compliance that you have observed, and try to explain why the individuals complied, in each case (i.e. for their own interest, due to their own passive nature etc). You are not being asked to explain how we persuade others to comply, but to explain the different reasons why the people you observed complied.
6. Chose one of the approaches mentioned in this lesson that you think best explains one of the forms of compliance that you observed in question 5? Explain your reasons for choosing the approach you did to explain your observation.

Note: In this, and in future lessons, you will be required to provide the scenarios and specified situations unless otherwise stated. Case studies may be those you have observed yourself, ones that you have read about, or ones that you have heard about.