**Introduction to Studying Psychology**

**Assignment Brief**

As part of the formal assessment for the programme you are required to submit a portfolio assignment. Please refer to your Student Handbook for full details of the programme assessment scheme and general information on preparing and submitting assignments.

1. Describe and discuss historical, ethical, and wider issues within psychology.

2. Explain core theoretical perspectives in psychology.

3. Evidence and reflect upon engagement with development opportunities for skills for success.

4. Demonstrate a developing academic skillset, including sourcing and communicating evidence.

Graduate attributes: Contextually innovative: applying skills of critical, creative and evidenced based analysis and/or personal reflection to current real-world situations and future challenges.

Through completing this assessment, you should have enhanced key professional development skills including; independent learning, developing your own working and learning strategies, time management, information seeking, understanding and awareness of limitations of theoretical perspectives, and the importance of reflection.

**Guidance**

Your assignment should include: a title page containing your student number, the module name, the submission deadline and the exact word count of your submitted document; the appendices if relevant; and a reference list (see referencing section for more information). You should address all the elements of the assignment task listed below. Please note that tutors will use the assessment criteria set out below in assessing your work. Maximum word count: 2,500 words

**Assignment Task**

There are FOUR parts to this assignment – you should answer all parts.

Part 1: Psychological Perspectives (750 words) LO2

Discuss which perspectives in psychology you believe are most useful for explaining human behaviour. Choose two perspectives from the psychodynamic, behavioural, cognitive, developmental, social, humanistic, biological, evolutionary, individual differences.

Provide examples and evidence to support your arguments, considering the strengths and limitations of each perspective.

**Part 2: Sourcing and Communicating Psychological Evidence** **(500 words) LO4**

STEP1: Find a recent (within last 10 years) peer-reviewed journal article about a psychological topic of your choice.

STEP2: Write a summary of the article, including the following key sections:

• introduction (including the research question or objective)

• methodology (briefly describing the research design and methods)

• results (summarizing the key findings)

• discussion (highlighting the implications and significance of the findings)

• conclusion (providing a summary of the main points and potential future directions).

STEP3: Provide a reference that follows either APA or AU Harvard referencing format (select the formatting appropriate to your programme of study - Referencing Guide at the bottom of this brief).

STEP4: Identify where and how you found this source, and whether the source is appropriate to use in academic work and an explanation of why.

**Part 3: Wider Issues in Psychology (750 words) LO1**

Explore how historical events and contexts have influenced the development of ethical guidelines and practices in psychological research. Provide an example of a significant historical study or event that raised ethical concerns and discuss its impact on shaping ethical standards in psychology.

**Part 4: Reflection on Skills for Success (500 words) LO3**

Use one of the reflective models you have learned about on the module (Gibbs, Driscoll) to write a reflection about your current and future development in your own academic skillset or skills for success. To help you do this, engage with some tools and resources to explore your academic and/or professional development. For example, this could be a meeting with a Professional Development Coach or someone from the Career’s team. You could attend an Academic Skills workshop (or watch the recording afterwards) or engage with the Arden Futures platform.

You could also engage with the English Language Hub or complete some of the Psychology Employability Portfolio (PEP). Other relevant resources that help you to explore your own academic and professional development are acceptable.