Psychology Transition Tasks

These tasks will get you thinking about how research is used in psychology as well as give you an introduction to social psychology, which is the study of how people's thoughts, feelings and behaviour are affected by the presence of others. Later on in the course, we'll also be studying topics as diverse as eye-witness testimony and a baby's attachment to its mother.

Task 1: Social Influence research

1. What were Jenness (1932) and Asch (1955) trying to show in their experiments? For each of these experiments, find out what the **aims** were, what **method** was used and what was **found**.
2. How could these findings be **applied** to more everyday human behaviour? Give three examples of how this same effect might occur in real life.
3. Are there any reasons why the behaviour seen in these experiments might be different to that seen *in real life*? Explain why.

You should have about a page of A4 notes for each of these experiments.

The links below will help you to begin your research.

http://www.simplypsychology.org/conformity.html
http://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/conformity-jenness-1932
http://www.simplypsychology.org/asch-conformity.html

Task 2: Open choice psychological research

Choose one episode/talk from either of these play lists:
BBC Radio 4's 'All in the Mind' series. http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxx9
Psychological TED talks: http://www.ted.com/topics/psychology

After watching/listening to your chosen episode, prepare a presentation for the rest of the class on this area of psychology. It can be in the form of a brief PowerPoint presentation (no more than five slides) or a poster, showing the main information points. Whichever format you choose, make sure that the presentation is visually appealing, rather than text-heavy. In other words, use diagrams, pictures or graphics to summarise the points that you are making.

Your presentation should include answers to the following:
What *specifically* has psychological research shown about this area?
What are the possible *applications*? (I.e. what areas of everyday life can be improved because of this new knowledge?)