

Psychology Independent Research Project – PLATINUM LEVEL

	What should be included	Example	Approx length	My Checklist	Teacher Checklist
PART A Introduction	 Explain what your project is focused upon and why you are interested in this topic. Present your research question (what exactly do you want to find out?) Come up with a hypothesis for your research (what do you predict the findings will be?) 	Is nature or nurture more influential on how boys and girls learn? What factors lead to criminal behaviour in young people in the UK? Variables in your research I predict that nature will be more influential than nurture in how boys and girls learn.	300 words	 I have an introduction that explains the topic I am focusing on I have a clear research question I have included a hypothesis (my prediction for my research) 	
Chapter	What should be included	Example	Approx length	My Checklist	
PART B Literature Review	 Find at least TWO existing sources of research or articles. For each source: (a) outline what it is about (b) identify five key pieces of information/quotes and explain how each links to your RQ (c) explain the limitations of each source. Make a general statement about what you have discovered from your research overall. <i>Bibliography</i> (include at the end of the written report) 	I have researched into the psychology and reasoning behind the creation of serial killers. As part of my research I have studied the life of Ted Bundy through a series of documentaries, looked into 3 psychological theorems and also found studies that provide evidence for both nature and nurture. The Bobo Doll Experiment was a study conducted by Albert Bandura to prove his social learning theory. The Bobo doll experiment had a sample of seventy two children who were exposed to three different models. 'Children who observed the aggressive model made far more imitative aggressive responses than those who were in the non-aggressive or control people.' (McLeod, 2011.) The results showed that the children who witnessed the aggressive model behaved more aggressive towards the doll. This links to my research as Ted Bundy's grandfather was abusive to his grandmother and therefore Ted Bundy could be an example of the social learning theory as he witnessed the violence towards his grandmother and repeated those actions on other women. A limitation of this experiment is that it only shows a single exposure effect and not the long-term effects on a child. How to write a bibliography: Author's name (surname, first initial), date of publication, title of source, publisher, place of publication or website address	500 words	FOR SOURCE 1 I have explained what the source is about I have included 5 key points from the source EXTENSION: I have included quotes I have explained why the source is limited (e.g. it uses a sample of only one person, it does not support the findings with evidence etc.) FOR SOURCE 2 I have included 5 key points from the source EXTENSION: I have explained what the source is about I have included 5 key points from the source EXTENSION: I have included quotes I have included quotes I have explained why the source is limited (e.g. it uses a sample of only one person, it does not support the findings with evidence etc.)	

Chapter	What should be included	Example	Approx. length	My Checklist		Teacher Checklist
PART C Methodology	 Explain your research design by outlining your <u>method/s</u> (questionnaire, interview, observation, experiment, case study) and WHY you have chosen each one. 	E.g. For my methodology I have chosen to use a questionnaire and an interview. This will allow me to	400 words	 METHOD/S I have explained what method/s I am using. I have explained WHY I have chosen these methods. 		
	 Explain your sample (age, gender, background, experience etc.) and WHY you have chosen your sample. 	E.g. As I would like to investigate how girls and boys learn, I will use a sample of 12-15 year-old Passmores students, with an even number of male and female participants.	e s s t ar o	 SAMPLE I have described the sample I will use. I have explained WHY I will use this sample. I have explained HOW I will get my sample 		
	 3. Outline <u>how</u> you are going to conduct your research: (a) Sampling method - how will you get your sample? 	E.g. For my questionnaire, I have made use of random sampling; this ensures that I obtain a range of opinions from twenty participants of different backgrounds, genders and theatrical exposure. The range in these factors is important as it will enable me to have an insight into people's varying opinions of theatre and ability to identify both historical and modern conventions within musicals, meaning that they are less likely to all gravitate towards a singular and possibly unreliable conclusion.				
	 (b) Research context - where and when (& for how long) will your research occur? (c) Standardisation - how will you control variables (e.g. participants, conditions, extraneous variables, researcher bias)? 	E.g. My first primary method, a questionnaire, will take place in a secondary academy located in Harlow, Essex. I chose this particular location due to my familiarity with the students and staff; a great deal of them express an interest in the performing arts.		 <u>RESEARCH PROCEDURE</u> I have explained when & where my research will take place. I have explained how I will ensure that the participants etc. have similar conditions. 		
	(d) What ethical considerations do you need to account/prepare for?	E.g. When planning my research I need to consider informed consent and so I plan to E.g. Firstly, I will pilot my questionnaire in my class		 I have explained the ethical considerations I have taken in my research. 		
	 (e) Outline in step-by-step how your research will occur (i.e. how exactly will you collect the data?) 	and then edit any questions that are unclear or unfit. Then I will E.g. I will present my quantitative data in bar graphs so I can compare the results. I will present the qualitative data in tables so I can include the		 I have explained each step of HOW I collected data in my research. I have described how I plan to 		
	(f) Data Presentation - how will you present your data (e.g. table, tally chart, graphs etc.)? Is it qualitative or quantitative?	descriptive results.		present the data I have collected.		
	<u> </u>	NOW GO OUT AND COLLECT YOUR DATA! ③			l	

Chapter	What should be included	Example	Approx. length	My Checklist	Teacher Checklist
PART D Data Analysis & Discussion of Results	 Presentation of data You will have collected your data together in an organised manner (using tables, tally charts etc.). NOW YOU NEED TO DO THE FOLLOWING: 1. Quantitative (numerical) data – decide which graph you need to display the data and draw/create this graph. 2. Qualitative (descriptive) data – (a) look at the responses and colour-code to bring out key themes (ideas that are important and repeated). (b) Once you have colour-coded the responses, put them in categories and add these categories to a table. 3. Include evidence of your tally charts or colour-coding in your report. 4. Include your graphs and/or tables in your research report. 5. For each graph or table, write two paragraphs underneath that explains what it is showing about your research question. 6. Does the data also show alternative arguments/interpretations that you didn't 	Example: presenting & analysis, if on my comparative analysis, i have colour-coded each on whention (theme) of musical theatre in order to clearly present my analytical comments for each or protection is device analysis, if on these notes, if organised them into the table below and elaborate to display whether they are apparent in the musical or not. Fittilly watched both musicals and made notes on the occurrence of musical theatre's conventions display to the musical theatre's conventions of the conducting my discourse analysis, from these notes, i organised them into the table below and elaborated on the notes, before colour-coding them so that themes are clearly highlighted. Image: the conventions • Origin present • Origin sof Rent - Film Musical Matildo - Live Musical Musical • Origin generet • Origin generet • Origin sof Rent - Film Musical • Matildo - Live Musical Musical • Origin generet • Origin generet • Origin sof • This musical featured many sogs ang in chorus, relating to the synchrony of Greek chorus and the vocal in whith the vase for Matildo, there is substantial use of chorus, as there is large utiliation of union when dancing and singing. • Init is musical frequency for the synchrony of Greek chorus was furthermore recognised them yound string scones; the substantial use of chorus, as there is large utiliation of union when dancing and singing. • Device the chart this any choral movement taus the dated analytical dated analytical (despite the dated difts any choral movement taus to the synchrony, similarly ta a Greek chorus dymain. •	400 words (not including words in tables or graphs)	ANALYSING THE DATA • I have explained how I have analysed the data I have collected. PRESENTING THE DATA • I have included evidence of colourcoding or tally charts. • I have presented my data in tables (qualitative) and graphs (quantitative). • I have made sure that my graphs and tables are accurate and labelled correctly. DISCUSSING THE DATA • I have explained what each graph shows in response to the research question. • I have explained what the table shows in response to the research	
	expect?	On this question, there was a wider distribution between responses, implying that there are several modern and historical conventions that act as an effective enhancer of the enjoyment and impact of live musical theater, the majority of participants (5%) for that the use of vacalisation and singing enhanced the distorial goal with vacalisation and singing enhanced the integration of a live musical theater, the story in opera was traditionally told through singing and vacalisation. Therefore, opera could be hitherto interpreted as being one of the most influential historical conventions of musical theatre, masking it evident that this convention has had an impact on theartical aspects today. Additionally, 20% of participants believed that dance and chicon has had an impact on theartical aspects today. Additionally, 20% of participants believed that dance motion has had an impact on theartical aspects today. Additionally, 20% of participants believed that dance and there on the provide a provide the transformation of a live of the most influential historical appets today. Additionally, 20% of participants believed that dance and there on the provide the transformation of a live of the most influential spects today. Additionally, 20% of participants believed that dance and there on the provide the transformation of a live of the most influence o			

Chapter	What should be included	Example	Approx. length	My Checklist	Teacher Checklist
PART E Evaluation	 Draw conclusions to your research question that are supported by your findings. 	E.g. This study aimed to investigate whether it was nature or nurture that caused Ted Bundy to kill. From all of my research and data analysis I can conclude that in my opinion I believe Ted Bundy was the product of both innate criminal behaviour and negative experiences during childhood. This is supported by my data analysis as both my participants in my questionnaire and in my interviews concluded that it took an innate need/want to kill and social influences during childhood that affect development to create a killer.	400 words	 DRAWING CONCLUSIONS I have answered my research question by clearly outlining the main conclusions taken from my data. 	
	 Explain the strengths and limitations of the methods, sample and data analysis process. 	 E.g. The strengths of my questionnaire are that it is a simple way of accessing people's thoughts and feelings; asking the correct questions will mean that I obtain a detailed range of answers. Additionally, questionnaires are not time-consuming, meaning that you can carry out multiple questionnaires simultaneously, thus enabling you to receive many responses in little time. The weaknesses of my questionnaire are the risks of social desirability; participants attempting to be socially desirable when taking the questionnaire may lead to inaccurate results, as they aren't being entirely honest. In an attempt to avert this, in my questionnaire disclaimer I could strongly request for all participants to answer completely honestly, thus increasing the accuracy of this method. E.g. Through my involvement in the research project, I 		 EVALUATING MY RESEARCH I have explained the strengths and limitations of the Research sample Research methods. Data analysis process 	
	 Outline what you have learnt from your research about the topic and how you think it could improve if you did it again in the future. 	have obtained various beneficial skills that are likely to aid me in further education and future endeavours. For example, I have gained time-management and organisational skills due to the independence of this course. If I were to undertake this project again, there are further areas of research that I would like to delve deeper into. For example, I would like to investigate the differences between the theatrical opinions of people today compared with those who watched musical theatre when the art form first made its debut on the West End and Broadway, and whether there is a historical influence on which conventions enhance a musical's impact and enjoyment.		 WHAT I HAVE LEARNED I have explained what I have learnt from doing the project. I would explain how I could improve my project in the future. 	