

Royal Holloway, University of London

A-level Psychology worksheets

Clinical Psychology

“Understanding decision making in people with delusions”

In this worksheet, we will be discussing the research of Dr Ryan McKay from the Psychology department at Royal Holloway. You will need a copy of the news article “Delusion prone people are more likely to rush into decisions” and the video interview with Dr McKay.

First, please read the news article “Delusion prone people are more likely to rush into decisions to the world around us”, and then answer the following questions:

1. What are delusions? Think of some examples of delusions.
2. In your own words, write down what you think the researchers did and what they found.
3. What questions would you have for the researcher after reading this article?

Now watch the interview with Dr McKay

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOmG9ktv6Xs&t=151s>), and answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think is it important to research delusions?
2. What did the classic study looking at jumping to conclusions involve?
3. What was wrong with the classic study looking at jumping to conclusions?
4. How did the researcher work out the optimal point for decision making?
5. What kind of methodological concerns would the researcher need to be aware of when designing their study?

Further study

Design a study looking at decision making in people with a different mental health condition. How would you ensure the study is of a high quality?

The original research article describing this research can be found here:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13546805.2013.861350>

You can find out more about Dr McKay’s research here:

<http://pc.rhul.ac.uk/sites/mab-lab/>