

Royal Holloway, University of London

A-level Psychology worksheets

Applied Psychology

“Listen carefully to the gorilla in the room”

In this worksheet, we will be discussing the research of Professor Polly Dalton from the Psychology department at Royal Holloway.

First, please read the news article “Intense gossiping leaves us ‘deaf’ to the world around us”, and then answer the following questions:

1. What do you think are the good and bad aspects of focused attention?
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 please watch the interview with Professor Dalton

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=178GVeJfOEs&t=68s>), and answer the following questions.

1. How can cognitive psychology be applied in the real world?
2. What was the researcher’s aim?
3. Have you learned anything different about the methods or findings of the research after listening to Professor Dalton’s interview? If yes, what? If no, what else would you like to know about?
4. What kind of variables do you think the researcher should control for in this study?
5. Looking back at the news article, do you think it did a good job of representing the research? Explain your answer.

Further study

Why not try to write your own news article on this research?

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

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010027712001047>

You can find out more about Professor Dalton’s research here:

<http://www.pc.rhul.ac.uk/sites/attentionlab/>