

An abstract network diagram featuring a dense web of pink lines connecting numerous small, dark pink, cube-like nodes. The nodes are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with some lines extending outwards from the perimeter. The background is a light gray with a subtle grid of small dots.

PERSONALITY AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES



Module Introduction and Assessments

Lecture Schedule

1. Module introduction / Personality Intro
2. Personality
3. The Dark Side of Personality
4. Personality Disorders
5. Intelligence
6. Emotional Intelligence
7. Predicting Performance
8. Biological and Environmental Influences
9. Mood and Emotion
10. Assessed Presentations



Readings

- Set out in the **Weekly tiles on Moodle**
 - Essential that you prepare accordingly when required
- Readings beyond core texts can be accessed via the library system
- Session content and readings are integrated
- On-campus sessions used to introduce theory and to discuss topics in greater detail



Assessment 1

1. 1,500 word essay

50% of overall module grade

Assessment Proforma is on Moodle.

Topic: Discuss how trait theories of personality account for individual differences in behaviour

Submission:
Tuesday 10th March 2026
by no later than 23:59hrs

Essay: Discuss how trait theories of personality account for individual differences in behaviour

Define

Define the concept of personality and introduce the specific trait theories you are going to be referring to within the essay

Research

You must provide empirical evidence to support the claims you are making throughout the essay

'Discuss'

You must discuss how well trait theories can explain differences in human behaviour, and provide alternative explanations

Essay: Marking pointers

What am I looking for?

Essay

- Engagement with and understanding of the theories/ideas that underpin personality and the specific trait theories that you are choosing to focus on
- Engagement with a good range of appropriate literature that demonstrates how well trait theories of personality can explain individual differences in behaviour
- Consideration of the ways in which personality traits are measured

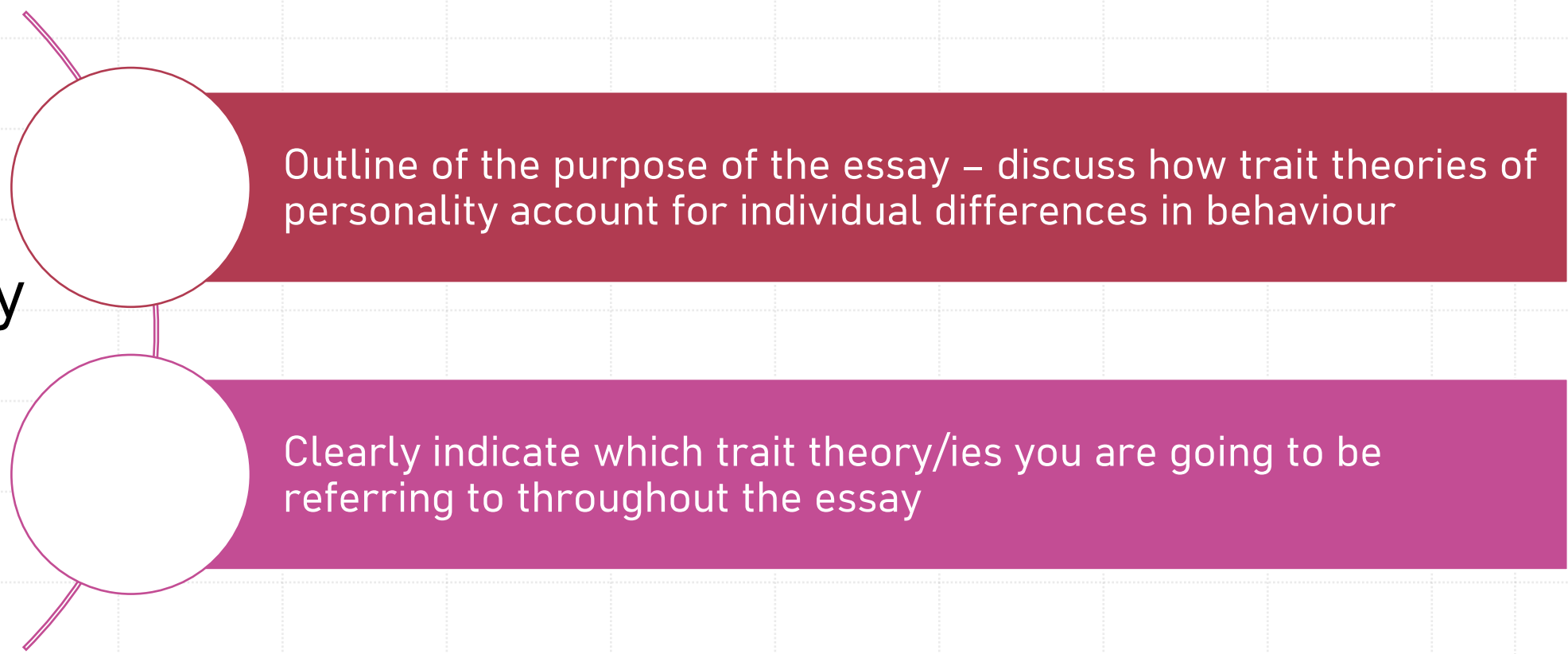
*What will lose you marks
on this essay?*

Essay

- Not including reference to the theory/theories you are introducing and not referring to empirical literature to support claims you are making throughout the essay
- Not considering measurements of personality in an attempt to consider how personality traits can account for individual differences in behaviour
- Not **appropriately discussing** the extent to which trait theories of personality can explain individual differences in behaviour
 - This means considering that there are other explanations for differences in behaviour, and you need to demonstrate that you understand this

Recommended structure

Introductory Paragraph



Outline of the purpose of the essay – discuss how trait theories of personality account for individual differences in behaviour

The diagram illustrates the recommended structure for an introductory paragraph. It features two horizontal bars, one dark red and one purple, each preceded by a white circle. The top bar is connected to the 'Introductory Paragraph' label by a thin line. The bottom bar is connected to the top bar by a thin line. The background is a light gray grid.

Clearly indicate which trait theory/ies you are going to be referring to throughout the essay

Recommended structure

Main Body

Theoretical
underpinning /
main models of
the trait theories

Outline of the
ways in which the
trait theory/ies
are proposed to
account for
individual
differences in
behaviour

Discussion of the
strengths and
weaknesses of
the use of
psychometric
tests to assess
personality

Consideration of
alternative
explanations of
behaviour

LITERATURE LITERATURE LITERATURE LITERATURE LITERATURE

Recommended structure

Summarise information

- Bring everything together and provide an overall conclusion

Informed opinion

- Offer an informed opinion on the ability of trait theories of personality to account for individual differences in behaviour

Informed opinion!

- An **informed opinion** is NOT an 'I think that this is good because...'. It is a 'the literature suggests that it is good/useful because...'



Assessment 2

2. Group presentation (five minutes per individual)

50% of overall module grade

Assessment Proforma is on Moodle

Topic: Discuss the aetiology, presentation and treatment of ONE personality disorder.

Submission:

Slides submission by no later than
9am on Thursday 30th April 2026

Group presentation: Thursday 30th
April (group times to be confirmed)

Further information will be provided in Week Four!

Any
questions?

