Essay ESS (70%) – 2000 words:

Students are required to choose ONE of the questions below. It must be a different question to the original one submitted. If you have already answered the final PAQ linked to Lecture 11, then you may NOT choose the essay question from Lecture 10 since they are both on the topic of looked-after children.

1. Critically evaluate evidence that prevalence rates of childhood mental health problems have changed over the last 30 years. What factors may explain this change?

2. Discuss with reference to the scientific literature whether contact with nature has positive effects for children’s development and wellbeing? In your answer outline and evaluate two or more theories that might explain how nature contact has positive effects.

3. “Social media is hurting teenagers’ mental health” (Guardian, 4th Jan 2019). To what extent does the research evidence support this statement?

4. Critically review the evidence that growth mindset interventions improve children’s academic achievement.

5. Critically review why children in care are at much higher risk for mental health problems and some of the factors contributing towards variability in outcomes.

Practical Application Question LOG (30%) – 800 words:

Students are required to answer ONE of the questions below. For guidance on answering a PAQ please refer to the Canvas assessment page for this module. It must be a different question to the original one submitted. If you have answered the final essay question linked to Lecture 10, then you may NOT choose the PAQ from Lecture 11 since they are both on the topic of looked-after children:

1. A local school wants to improve the wellbeing of their children and you are working as a psychologist to advise them on this process. You have decided to focus on the role of social relationships. What advice can you provide about the types of social relationships they should focus on and how they can measure any changes in wellbeing?

2. You are a teacher working in a primary school. You have been asked by your Head to lead a working group looking at redesigning a playground for the children to encourage adventurous and risky play. This is your current playground. What changes to the playground would you recommend and what rationale and evidence would you use to convince your colleagues of your plans?
3. A parent friend lets you know that she has banned her 10-year old child from playing video games that might contain violence. She is worried it will harm their behaviour and development. What evidence based on theory and research could you share to give a different viewpoint to your friend about the impact of violent video games?

4. You are an Educational Psychologist working with a primary school. They want to encourage their pupils to be more empathic and caring towards each other. Based on theory and research, what changes to the curriculum would you recommend to achieve these goals?

5. A new child has just joined the youth club where you work. They have recently entered foster care and at times their behaviour is quite challenging within the group. One of the other youth workers says, “It’s inevitable that they are going to be like this. There’s nothing you can do about it once they are older”. What evidence could you provide to give a different viewpoint?