**Guide to Coding System (A Level Version)**

1. **Problem:** What you have written is inaccurate

*Solution: You need to go back to your notes and revise the details of that theory/study or evaluation point and then try writing it again and then check against your notes to see if you can accurately remember the detail.*

1. **Problem:** You have not given enough detail to be able to gain all the marks available for this part of the question

*Solution: If this relates to AO1 information, you need to make sure that you have at least 150 words worth of information for that theory, so practise writing it and then check back on your notes to make sure that you haven’t missed anything out. For AO3 information,* Look back at your notes. Are they detailed enough for you to write a clear and well explained point? If not, refer to a textbook, or attend a subject extension. If your notes are detailed enough, then you need to revise the information better for next time

1. **Problem:** The information is muddled and not written clearly

*Solution: First make sure you understand the theory or evaluation point you are making (you should attend a subject extension session if you don’t), then read out what you have written to someone who has no knowledge of Psychology. Do they understand what you are trying to explain to them? If not, keep altering it until it is clear to that person.*

**4. Problem:** The information is not relevant to the question

*Solution: You either need to revise more thoroughly, or make sure that you give yourself enough time to*

*understand what the question is asking of you before you attempt to answer it. Try practising with past*

*papers. Read some questions, think about what information you would answer them with, and then*

*check against the mark scheme to see if you would have been on the right track. It may be that you*

*have got this code because you have included too many details of the procedure of a study, when these*

*are not necessary to answer the question. If this is the case, practise writing the findings only giving*

*minimal details of the procedure (enough for the findings to make sense).*

**5. Problem:** You have not applied the theory to the scenario

*Solution: Go back over your answer and highlight any parts that relate directly to the scenario you have*

*been given. If there are none, or very few, you won’t get the AO2 marks, so try to make statements that*

*directly link the theory to the situation you are explaining*

**6. Problem:** The research evidence has not been grounded to the theory

Solution: Look back at your notes. Do you have a good grounding statement for each study? If you do,

then you need to make sure that you include them in the essay. If you don’t, practise writing them and

then take them to a subject extension to test out on the teacher

**7. Problem:** You have given too much information on the strengths and weaknesses of the

methodology used in the supporting research when you are evaluating a theory, or it may be

very generic (could apply to lots of studies), or not linked back to the theory (saying how it

affects the support the research gives to the theory)

Solution: When evaluating a theory, only write one or two points at most that relate to methodology,

and only make points that specifically relate to the study you are commenting on. If you can lift the

point out of your essay and drop into another essay, then it is not worth making

**8. Problem:** No wider evaluation points have been given

Solution: In an essay, you should aim to give at least one evaluation that is not linked to the research

evidence. For example, is the research socially sensitive? How does it compare to other theories? Does

it fail to explain anything? Does it have any useful applications? Check your notes and make sure that

you have a well explained wider evaluation point written down for this topic

**9. Problem:** You have repeated a point you have already made

Solution: Only make a point once. You won’t get any extra credit for repetition and you will just be

wasting precious time. Make sure you have sufficient information to make a range of different points.