Past Oxbridge Psychology Questions

Can a thermostat think?

Can we think without language?

Discuss the origin of phobias (nature vs nurture)

Does a snail have a consciousness?

How come a painting by a four year old of “a tiger amongst tulips” (as described by the child) doesn’t look like a tiger despite the child studying a tiger at the zoo the day before and being satisfied with the outcome?

How many monkeys would you use in an experiment?

How useful are twin studies?

How would you conceptualise an emotion?

How would you design a scientific experiment to show that a certain substance is addictive?

If you could have half an hour with any Psychologist past or present, who would it be?

What are the effects of recreational drugs on the brain?

What is crime, and is there such a thing as a criminal mind?

What is love?

What tricks do you use to remember things? – how does this work?

What's normal for humans?

Why do cows like grass?

Would taxi drivers use a different part of their brain to remember different routes?

Examples for Informal Interview

What is the purpose of Psychology?

Psychology was derived from Philosophy and should not be considered to be a Science.

Nature and nurture can never be distinguished.

Can stress ever be operationalized?

Why are interviews successful research methods?