

A Level Psychology Course Content

The course specification taught is AQA www.aqa.org.uk

psychology



Student

workbook

Name:

| | |
|---|---|
| Unit 1 | Social influence Why do people conform to group pressures and obey authority? |
| Unit 2 | Memory How do we remember and why do we forget? |
| Unit 3 | Attachment How and why do we form attachments to others? |
| Unit 4 | Approaches in Psychology What are the origins of Psychology and is Psychology a science? |
| Unit 5 | Psychopathology What is 'abnormality'? And how do people develop Phobias, Depression and OCD? |
| Unit 6 | Research Methods How is psychological research carried out and interpreted? |
| Unit 7 | Biopsychology How does the brain work? |
| Unit 8 | Issues and debates in Psychology Are Psychological studies biased in any way? |
| We will learn 1 topic from <u>each</u> of these option blocks: | |
| Option block 1 | Gender |
| Option block 2 | Stress |
| Option block 3 | Aggression |

AS Psychology:

If you choose to take the standalone AS qualification over 1 year we will study only topics 1-6.

Exams: You will sit 2 summer exams.

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minute exam, topics 1-3. 72 marks in total worth 50% of the AS Grade

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minute exam, topics 4-6. 72 marks in total worth 50% of the AS Grade

A2 Psychology:

If you choose to take A level Psychology over 2 years we will cover topics 1-6 in the first year and topics 7,8 and 3 more (1 each from option blocks 1-3)

Exams: You will sit 3 summer exams at the end of your second year.

Paper 1: 2 hour exam, topics 1-4. 96 marks in total worth 33% of the A level Grade

Paper 2: 2 hour exam, topics 5-7. 96 marks in total worth 33% of the A level Grade

Paper 3: 2 hour exam, topic 8 plus one topic from each of the 3 option blocks.
96 marks in total worth 33% of the A level Grade

As with all new specifications the AS qualification is 'stand-alone' and does not contribute towards the final A2 grade.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT EXPECTATIONS

Features of a very good Sixth Form lesson in Psychology

- Being involved in the different activities in the lessons e.g. questioning, matching tasks, videos, discussions & note taking
- Willingness to participate in discussions & to listen to others' ideas
- Ability to write effectively
- Attendance & punctuality- find out in advance of the next lesson what work you missed so you will not be behind- just copying up work will not help you.
- Meeting deadlines for any homework that is set- it may be preparation for the next lesson or consolidate your previous learning.
- Personal organization- bring past work to lessons
- Clarification of anything not understood in lesson straightaway as we tend to move on in the next lesson
- Bringing your textbook to every lesson & looking after it (spares will be available in S2 but are of varying quality)
- Be active in setting yourself targets
- A variety of lesson tasks e.g. PowerPoint presentation, the textbook, discussion, video footage

A successful Sixth Form student studying Psychology should:

- Be interested in people e.g. reading newspaper articles & watching relevant programmes on TV (part of the independent learning log)
- Show effort & initiative- make your learning active & ask for additional resources
- Matching each 1 hour lesson with 1 hour of personal study. This could be in the form of homework but if not you could read ahead or consolidate your learning by beginning to make revision notes.
- Try revising as you go along as a two year course with a lot of modules creates a lot of notes to learn. You should have learnt from your GCSEs how you revise the best but tried & tested methods include-
 - Mind maps
 - Bullet points
 - Revision cards
 - Quizzes
 - Planning answers to exam questions
 - Practise past exam questions in timed conditionsSee Mrs Heath for help with revision of main theories & studies. After each module you will have a past exam paper, although weekly homework questions will include plenty of exam practice.
- When making notes in class, remember to use whichever method suits you best. These could include-
 - Notes
 - Bullet points
 - Tables

➤ Spider diagrams

Whatever you use, remember there is no point copying huge chunks from the textbook, you will never remember it so it becomes a waste of your time

- Use the core textbook- we will use it in class BUT unlike some other subjects it will mainly be used for your own learning outside of lessons (i.e. homework & consolidation of learning)
- Use the textbooks in the psychology base which are a bit simpler or provide more details on many topics. These can be borrowed on short term loan- see Mrs Heath for more details
- Mrs Heath has a variety of subject specific extension books (A Level & Degree level) that can be borrowed. Please look in S2 for more details
- Use the past & present copies of the magazine, *Psychology Review*, which are kept behind the desk in the library. They are worthwhile looking at for many topics. There is also the whole archive available online if you follow the link on the school desktop to Library Online Resources. The library also has various books for loan
- Keep mobile phones in bags & turned off
- Be punctual to all lessons
- Meet all deadlines
- If you miss a lesson you should see your teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time to go through the work- just copying notes from the textbook or another student will not be enough. Take the initiative & don't expect your teacher to chase you.
- Bring in any articles or details of anything they have seen in for use on the psychology displays in S2
- **PSYCHOLOGY IS A BRAND NEW COURSE FOR YOU. IT CONTAINS ELEMENTS OF MATHS AND BIOLOGY NOT JUST SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY ELEMENTS. IT IS A SUBJECT WITH A HIGH LEVEL OF ACADEMIC RIGOUR WHICH OFTEN SURPRISES STUDENTS. IF YOU FIND YOURSELF STRUGGLING PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR TEACHER AS SOON AS YOU CAN.**

Task 1**Key terms**

Below are some key terms that you must know when you start

| Term | Definition |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Aim | |
| Procedure | |
| Findings/ conclusions | |
| Evaluation | |
| Laboratory Experiment | |
| Observational techniques | |
| Independent variable | |
| Dependent variable | |
| Extraneous variable | |
| Ecological validity | |
| Ethical issue | |

Psychology Summer work

Task 2

Research and prepare a newspaper article detailing one psychologist of your own choosing.

Please include:

1. An overview of their work
2. Use images to add interest
3. Assess how well they have contributed to Psychology by considering the strengths and weaknesses of their work.

Key psychologists or people who have contributed significantly to psychology include:

Sigmund Freud

Abraham Maslow

Burrhus Skinner

Ivan Pavlov

John Watson

Wilhelm Wundt

Albert Ellis

Aaron Beck

Albert Bandura

Charles Darwin

Elizabeth Loftus

John Bowlby

Mary Ainsworth

Philip Zimbardo

This is not exhaustive you can choose another psychologist that you may have heard of.

Happy researching!

Task 3

There are some core approaches to Psychology that you need to know for your A level – they are different ways of explaining human behaviours. Some of these are listed below: your job is to do some research on them using the internet.

Task 3 is to research & write a short paragraph/draw a poster/make a model on at least one of the 4 approaches- biological, behavioural, social learning theory & cognitive

You should find out what the main word in the approach means & how it might explain human behaviour (its main assumptions or beliefs). Identify at least one key researcher or psychologist from this area and why are they famous. Think about any obvious strengths or weaknesses of the approach.

Use the following websites or any resources you have to help you-

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-approaches.html>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/collections/a-level-psychology-study-notes-approaches-and-biological-psychology>

Wikipedia, while sometimes untrustworthy, is very good for this! There are also plenty of great videos on YouTube you can watch

These approaches are used throughout the entire course & will be used right at the start of Y12

Task 4 – Psychology Today

Psychology is still a developing subject, with new research and information being revealed every single day. As keen young Psychologists, you need to keep abreast of new information. Twitter is seen by some to be the future of social science – it is used by researchers, academics and other social scientists alike to share news and information as well as discuss issues. I would advise that you create yourselves Twitter accounts as soon as possible and follow the below users for information and news:

@PsychToday (Psychology Today magazine)

@tutor2uPsych (Tutor2U's Psychology feed)

@ResearchDigest (the British Psychological Society's Research feed)

@Psychmag (The Psychologist magazine)

Your second task is to keep an eye on these Twitter accounts (as well as wider sources – the news and shows on TV, newspapers and others – there are loads of fantastic movies and documentaries that you can watch for Psychology!) over the Summer holidays and make a note of any particularly interesting news that is relevant to Psychology.

If you have any further questions while you are enjoying your Summer holiday, my email address can be found below 😊

Mrs Heath

reheath@fcc.faringdonlearningtrust.org

Optional additional activities to develop psychological understanding

As you now know, psychology is all around us. This means that there is lots you can do to develop your psychological understanding.

The tasks are optional- I do not expect you to complete these, but they will help you with your studies & you may wish to complete some of the tasks below over the summer.

Also take a look at the powerpoint of additional films & books on the 6th form website for summer work

Have a look in a psychology review magazine & write a summary of an article you have read

Watch a film with a psychological theme (e.g. Black Swan, Girl Interrupted, Side Effects, One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, A Beautiful Mind etc) & make a simple fact sheet about it (story, actors, opinion on film)

Watch a TV show with psychological content. Record channel & date & main topics discussed (e.g. attachment, sleep, phobias, memory, aggression etc)

Construct a model using recyclable material to demonstrate a theory, model or process e.g. strange situation, memory models, parts of the brain etc

Produce a powerpoint about a psychological explanation of an aspect of psychology e.g. SIT, deindividuation, learning theory of attachment etc

Use the BBC website and find out 10 facts about the brain

Using the BBC website, take one of the tests. Note down what you have learned about your behaviour

Research 5 famous psychologists & explain why you have chosen them

Useful websites:

www.allpsych.com



<http://bps-research-digest.blogspot.com/>



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/mind/>

