



Psychology GCSE to A level

Bridging Work

Year 11 into 12 for 2024/25



Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Teacher: _____

Welcome to A Level Psychology!

Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to give you essential information and resources to support the beginning of your A Level in Psychology. This booklet will also help you to understand and develop the skills you will need.

To prepare you for your first lesson, please ensure you have a lever arch folder and file dividers ready to organise your notes.

Expectations

- Bring folder and all notes every lesson
- Bring all equipment, such as pens, highlighters, rulers and a calculator
- 100% attendance and punctuality
- 5 hours a week extra study outside of class time for Psychology. Your lessons are merely a support to guide you through Psychology A Level, the hard work has to come outside of class too, to ensure for success.
- You can expect all work to be marked and returned within two weeks of you handing it in

Suggested textbooks for A level Psychology:

The Complete Companions: AQA Psychology Year 1 and AS Student Book (Fourth Edition) (Complete Companion Psychology) Paperback– 12 Mar 2015: Mike Cardwell and Cara Flanagan

AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS - Student Book. Paperback– 23 Mar 2015: Cara Flanagan, Matt Jarvis & Dave Berry

Whichever textbook you decide to buy, please ensure that it is for the AQA A Level specification and it is for the new changes (new changes came about in 2015).

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of human and animal behaviour. Psychologists are always trying to discover why people do the things they do, whether those things are normal or abnormal. Psychologists are also interested in differences between various groups such as males & females, cultural & subcultural (e.g. Welsh & English) groups, and so on. Sometimes we have to look at animal behaviour in order to get a better understanding of our own behaviour and to answer questions like 'how do we learn?' From a personal perspective, you should find the fundamental questions of the psychologist interesting:

- Why do I behave like this?
- Why do I feel like this?
- Why do I think like this?

As part of the psychology course, you will study the following topics;

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Research Methods
- Psychopathology
- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Relationships
- Aggression
- Stress

Students who have completed GCSE psychology will already have *SOME* knowledge of; social influence, memory and research methods. The rest of the topics are brand new for everyone. This means you will need to spend some time catching up on these three topics.

What is this Bridging work for?

This research based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for your A Level Psychology course.

Research and complete the tasks independently over the summer to get a head start and prepare for the key topics within A Level Psychology.

When is this Bridging work due?

Your bridging work will be collected in your **first psychology** lesson back after the summer holidays.

The work will be marked as either a Pass, Borderline, or Fail.

If the work is not completed to standard, you will sit a detention.

Where can I find the Bridging work if I lose mine?

Either on the school website or my psychology class teams channel.

Memory

In this experiment you can test as many or as little people as you like. As the experimenter you should read out one line at a time of the triangle of numbers below to your participant. When you have finished reading out the line, your participant should recite back to you as many of the numbers they can remember. Record how many numbers they recall correctly on each line.

6
27 35
10 28 22
38 46 10 11
52 8 19 81 17
55 38 29 13 8 71
75 17 20 61 82 5 12
61 38 17 40 49 84 57 8
71 22 31 89 47 5 1 16 94
18 95 48 30 89 67 18 11 15 17
76 83 40 28 25 12 15 53 95 49 20
16 9 11 17 49 50 28 69 24 53 78 10
77 53 49 76 19 94 87 64 23 19 15 51 2
78 56 34 19 27 20 80 42 38 64 29 10 79 31

Now think about and explain:

- 1) What was the maximum amount of numbers your participants call recall from any line? (If you used more than one participant, take the average).

- 2) What do your results suggest about memory?

1.

2.

Now research and answer the following...

1) What is memory? Does it have different types? If so, explain them...

2) What is the capacity and duration of the average memory in humans?

3) What did George Miller do in 1956? What did he discover about memory? How does this link to the results from your experiment above?

Social Influence

Research and produce a fact sheet on two key studies:

- 1) Milgram's (1963) Obedience to Authority
- 2) Zimbardo's Stanford Prison Experiment

Milgram's (1963) Obedience to Authority

Zimbardo's Stanford Prison Experiment

Fear. Sadness. Obsession.

Produce a fact file on each of the following mental disorders. Include symptoms, potential causes and treatments.

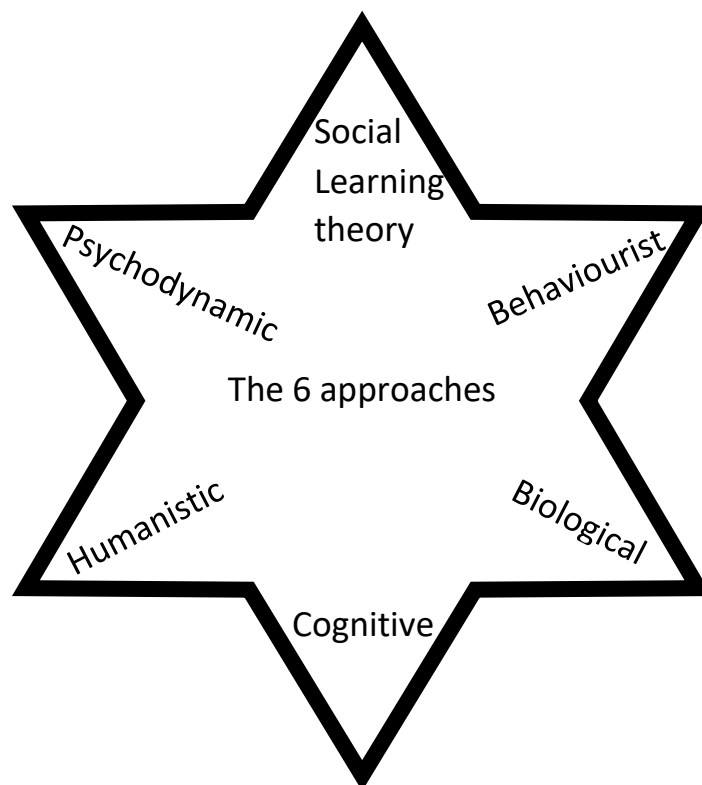
1) Phobias

2) Depression

3) OCD

Approaches

There are six main Psychological approaches or perspectives. Research them and explain the key terms, assumptions and psychologists which fit into each one.



Wider reading and resources

The Man who mistook his Wife for a Hat by Oliver Saks.	This is a collection of case studies of patients with unique/interesting brain damage. Useful for the topics of Memory because it includes cases of amnesia and Biopsychology because it looks at functional recovery of the brain.
The Psychopathy Test by Jon Ronson	Jon Ronson is a journalist who investigates the nature of a psychopath. He questions the validity of testing them and suggests there may be many psychopaths in society who are functioning and non-criminal. Particularly in politics and business.
Opening Skinner's Box by Lauren Slater	Brilliant short summaries of some of the most famous psychological studies. Some of which we study in our course.
The Essential Difference by Simon Baron-Cohen	All about his research into gender differences and how they might actually be routed in biology after all. Also includes interesting and controversial links between the male brain and autism.
Three Identical Strangers	A documentary based on Triplets who were separated at birth. Relates to the nature nurture debate.
The Stanford prison experiment	A film depicting the famous prison study that we'll learn about in our first topic in social psychology.
One flew over the cuckoo's nest	Film. Useful for psychopathology and definitions of abnormality.
The Experiment	A film depicting the famous psychologist Stanley Milgram that we'll learn about in our first topic in social psychology.
12 Angry Men	An old film that will be great for our discussions into conformity.
Beautiful mind	Film. Useful for psychopathology topic.
Zimbardo Ted Talk	https://www.ted.com/talks/philip_zimbardo_the_psychology_of_evil?language=en Great to get you thinking about "what is evil?" for our social psychology topic.
BBC4s "I hear voices"	BBC Sounds – 'I hear voices' about a woman's experience of schizophrenia https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05q82d8
BBC4s All in the mind series	All in the mind – the impact of psychological research on our lives https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03hvx74
Future learn Online Course	https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/history-science-psychology Interesting articles and videos explaining the history and background of psychology.