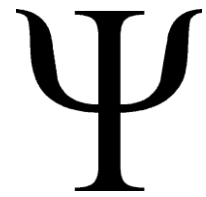


Psychology



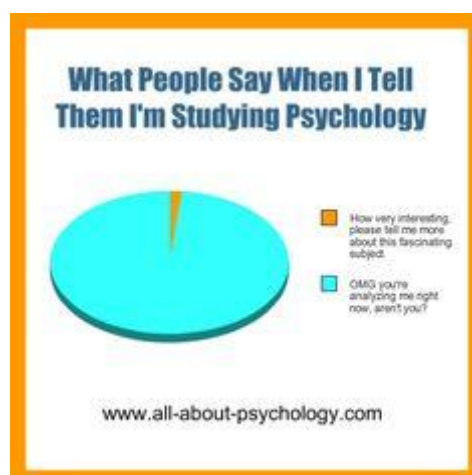
Summer preparation work for A Level 2026/2027



Staff

Miss S Cliffe (Head of Department)

Miss K Taws (Class Teacher)



Welcome to Psychology!

Well done! You have chosen to study a fascinating scientific subject. Psychology is the science of behaviour and experience, and you will learn how to apply what you study over the next two years to explaining numerous aspects of human behaviour.

This is a subject new to all students in the sixth form therefore the work suggested in this preparation booklet is designed to introduce you to some of the areas that you will study. There will be lots of new terminology to grasp and it would be useful for you to familiarise yourself with some of this.

We study the AQA Psychology specification. Here is a link that will take you to it so that you can have an in-depth look at what you will be studying:

[AQA | Psychology | A-Level | A-level Psychology](#)

A Level topics

Year 1	Year 2
• Research methods • Approaches • Social influence • Memory • Attachment • Clinical Psychology & Mental Health	• Biopsychology • Forensic Psychology • Gender • Schizophrenia • Issues & debates

If you would like to find out more detail about any particular topics, please use the link below:

[AQA | Psychology | A-Level | A-level Psychology](#)

Final Examinations

You will sit three equally weighted 2 hour exams at the end of your second year of study.

- Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology
- Paper 2: Psychology in context
- Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology

There is no course work or practical assessment in A level Psychology.

Course Overview

By studying Psychology, you will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop a variety of skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers. These include critical analysis, independent analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and research skills that will prepare you for an exciting future with the possibility of a range of fantastic careers.

One of the main aims of the course is to enable students to understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

Your summer tasks (5 tasks in total)

1. Print off and complete the Pdf document entitled '**Introduction to AQA level Psychology**'. You will need to open the following link to access videos that will enable you to complete the booklet.

[Introduction to AQA A-Level Psychology Getting Started | tutor2u](#)

This booklet is to be fully completed and handed in to your teacher for marking in your first lesson in September.

2. Watch/listen to some TED talks from the recommendations below



[Keith Barry: Brain magic | TED Talk](#)

First, Keith Barry shows us how our brains can fool our bodies -- in a trick that works via podcast too. Then he involves the audience in some jaw-dropping (and even a bit dangerous) feats of brain magic.



[W. Keith Campbell: The psychology of narcissism | TED Talk](#)

Narcissism isn't just a personality type that shows up in advice columns; it's actually a set of traits classified and studied by psychologists. But what causes it? And can narcissists improve on their negative traits? W. Keith Campbell describes the psychology behind the elevated and sometimes detrimental self-involvement of narcissists.



[Carol Dweck: The power of believing that you can improve | TED Talk](#)

Carol Dweck researches “growth mindset” — the idea that we can grow our brain's capacity to learn and to solve problems. In this talk, she describes two ways to think about a problem that's slightly too hard for you to solve. Are you not smart enough to solve it ... or have you just not solved it yet? A great introduction to this influential field.



[Jon Ronson: Strange answers to the psychopath test | TED Talk](#)

Is there a definitive line that divides crazy from sane? With a hair-raising delivery, Jon Ronson, author of *The Psychopath Test*, illuminates the gray areas between the two.



[Ben Ambridge: 9 myths about psychology, debunked | TED Talk](#)

How much of what you think about psychology is actually wrong? In this whistle-stop tour of disproved ideas, Ben Ambridge shares nine popular ideas about psychology that have been proven wrong -- and uncovers a few surprising truths about how our brains really work.

3. There are also some great films you could watch that have strong psychological themes throughout. (**WARNING** – some of these are certificated 18 – so check with parent/carers that it is ok for you to view them)



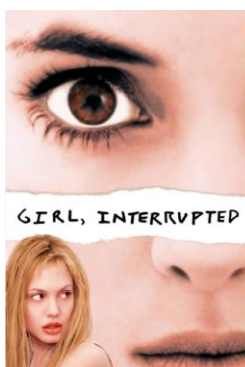
Based on the true story of Stanley Milgram's academic investigations on obedience to authority at Yale University during the 1960s. Shows simulated and archived footage of his original experiment as detailed on your specification as well as other investigations such as the lost-letter experiment

In order to escape the prison labour, McMurphy, a prisoner, fakes insanity and is shifted to the special ward for the mentally unstable. In this ward, he must rise up against a cruel nurse, Ratched.



A Beautiful Mind is the real-life story of John Nash, a mathematician suffering with Schizophrenia. This film works to shed light on the concept of mental illness by bringing awareness of the disorder to its viewers.

“A Dangerous Method” is a fictionalized account of the relationship between Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung — the pioneers of psychoanalysis. Despite some shortcomings in terms of historical accuracy, the film offers a glimpse into the origins of talking therapy, aka psychotherapy.



Girl, Interrupted is a best-selling 1993 memoir by American author Susanna Kaysen, relating her experiences as a young woman in an American psychiatric hospital in the 1960s after being diagnosed with borderline personality disorder.

4. Some recommended websites - You can develop your interest in the subject by accessing up to date newsworthy topics on the following:

[Homepage | BPS](#) – official web site of the British Psychological Society. Information on education, careers, student membership, current research etc.

[Google ScholarGoogle Scholar](#)

[Psychology | Psychology | tutor2u](#)

[TED: Ideas Worth Spreading](#)

[The Psychologist | BPS](#)

[thInk | On art, science and the brain \(wordpress.com\)](#)

[Medical and health information \(medicalnewstoday.com\)](#)

[Education news, opinion and guides | The Guardian](#)

5. You might also want to look up some intriguing individuals in Psychology....

See what you can find out about.....

Cyril Burt

Phineas Gage

Genie (Feral child)



So..... can the study of Psychology really help us to control behaviour?

A real life explanation....

Managers at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam wanted to know how they might stop men from missing the urinals and making a mess on the floor of the airport toilets. They had tried putting up signs telling them to be more careful and warning them of dire consequences if they didn't get their aim straightened out but this had little impact.

But initial psychological research highlighted that *apparently* (!) men like nothing more than having something to aim at. So, men's urinals at Schiphol Airport were given a small but significant redesign. A tiny black spot, in the shape of a fly, was inlaid into the middle of the pristine white porcelain urinal. It stood out like ... well, like a fly on a white urinal.

Although no truly scientific studies have been conducted into the effectiveness of this method, apparently Schiphol's cleaning costs were significantly reduced.



Please bring your completed booklet
with you to your first Psychology lesson.

See you in September!