

Psychology

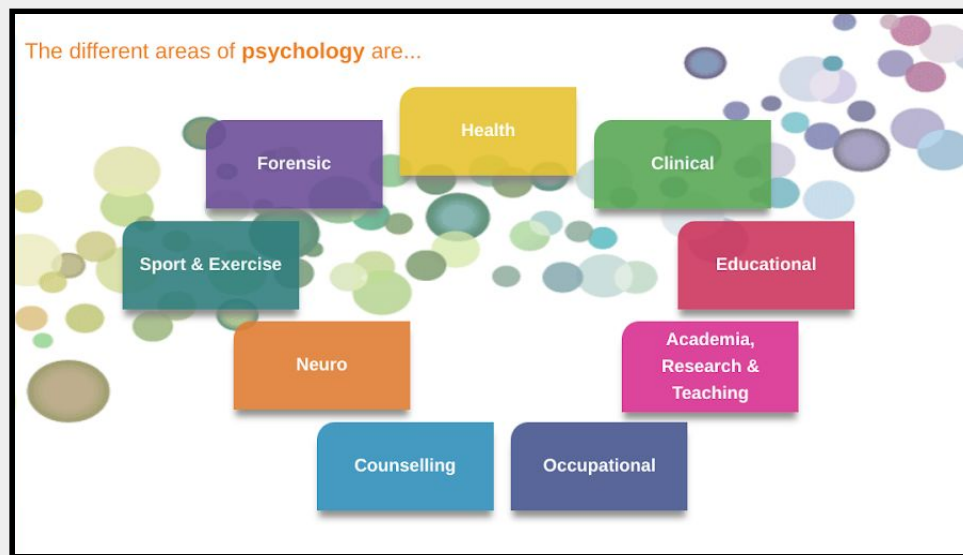
Transition Booklet

Year 11 to Year 12

ecampbell@cwcscoventry.co.uk

Welcome to A' Level Psychology

Psychology is a popular A' Level subject; nationally it is consistently in the top 5 for examination entries. There are different pathways for careers in psychology, more details can be found on the [British Psychological Society](http://www.bps.org.uk) website.



Excellent A' Level grades are required to study psychology at degree level; it is very competitive.

Example entry requirements for **UNIVERSITY** are:

- Aston University BBB
- Birmingham City BBC
- University of Birmingham AAA
- University of Cambridge A*AA
- Coventry University BBB/DDM
- De Montfort University 120 points/DDM
- University of Leeds AAA
- University of Leicester ABB/DDM
- University of Manchester AAB
- University of Oxford A*AA
- University of Warwick AAB

Have a look on the [UCAS website](http://www.ucas.com) for further details of the wide range of psychology degree courses at all UK universities. You can specialise in particular elements at university, such as forensics, clinical etc.

Psychology A' Level/degree can lead to a wide range of careers, including education, human health, social work, legal and welfare professionals, business and human resource management, marketing, amongst many others.

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human (an animal) brain and behaviour, and the thoughts and emotions that influence the behaviour. It looks at the ways people think, act, react and interact. Psychologists conduct scientific research using empirical methods and attempt to describe, explain, predict and control behaviour. They study a range of topics that can be applied in many areas of life.

The A' Level course includes the following:

Modules: (including codes)	<p>4.1 Introductory topics in psychology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Social Psychology▪ Memory▪ Attachment <p>4.2 Psychology in context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Approaches in Psychology▪ Biopsychology▪ Psychopathology▪ Research Methods<ul style="list-style-type: none">o scientific processeso data handling and analysiso inferential testing <p>4.3 Issues and options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Issues and Debates▪ Relationships▪ Schizophrenia▪ Forensic Psychology
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There are 3 examinations at the end of year 13. This subject is 100% exam - there is no coursework element.

As you can see from the course outline, psychology A' Level includes elements of mathematics and science- it really is not an easy option! It is incredibly interesting but involves a lot of hard work (like any other A' Level). Literacy skills are also important for this A' Level as you are required to write essays in each section of the exam.

Equipment

In September, please ensure you have the following for your first lesson:

- A lever arch folder (you will end up filling 3 of these by the end of year 13!)
- Dividers
- Plastic wallets
- An A4 pad of lined paper - one where you can take the pages out easily to add into your booklet
- A calculator
- Pens, pencil and highlighters

Preparing for year 12 study

The following tasks will give you an idea of the areas of interest for psychology. Please contact me on the email at the start of this booklet if you require further help. Enjoy!

TASK 1: Key Psychological Studies

There are hundreds of research studies that we cover as part of the A' Level course. For each of the studies listed below, summarise the following elements into 100-150 words:

Background and Aim(s)

Method (procedure and details of the sample)

Results (this could be written or included on a graph – as long as you explain your graph)

Conclusion(s)

Studies:

- Milgram
- Zimbardo
- Rosenhan
- Ainsworth
- Harlow


This information is called 'AO1'. It is all about describing or outlining something. This may be describing a study, an explanation or a model.

This element of the question will begin.... AO1 = Describe, Identify, Outline etc.

The Milgram Shock Experiment

RESPOND:

Some people say that this experiment was *unethical*. (Ethical means morally right or good). Do you agree?



PSYCHOLOGY UNLOCKED




ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST
BY SHARON KESEY



PSYCHOLOGY UNLOCKED



THE STRANGE SITUATION



It may be that we are puppets - puppets controlled by the strings of society. But at least we are puppets with perception, with awareness. And perhaps our awareness is the first step to our liberation.

- Stanley Milgram

TASK 2: An Introduction to Psychopathology

AQA A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

TOPIC - PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

LESSON 1 – INTRODUCING PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Section A

COMPLETE THE TASKS BELOW

Watch the following video: [Introduction to Psychopathology - online lesson](#)

1. Write a suitable definition for 'psychopathology'

2. Complete the table below to write definitions and symptoms of each mental health condition.

Condition	Definition	Symptoms
Eating Disorders		
Schizophrenia		
Aggression		

3. How does culture affect our perception of behavior? Research behaviours that are illegal across different cultures / countries and consider what this concludes about how we should define what is and is not normal

4. How does time affect our perception of behavior? Research laws and legislations that have changed over time in the UK and consider what this concludes about how we should define what is and is not normal.

Section B

DEVELOP YOUR A03 SKILLS BY COMPLETING THE TASKS BELOW

- 1 The biological explanation of OCD assumes that the condition is caused by physiology alone.

A03 question	Answer
If it is physiological how would they suggest treating OCD?	
Is it likely that OCD is only physiological?	
Why are biological theories scientifically credible?	

2. Consider the ways that the biological explanation of OCD would treat the condition. How would these have a positive impact on the economy?
3. Using research to support or challenge a theory can be effective evaluation. Find and summarise the Little Albert study to support the behaviourist explanation of phobias.

Section C

DEVELOP YOUR ABILITY TO SPOT A02 PROMPTS IN EXAM QUESTIONS BY COMPLETING THE TASKS BELOW

1. Read the information and question below. Highlight/annotate the area that prompts you to demonstrate your AO2 skills. Identify what mental disorder the doctor is most likely to diagnose Deborah as suffering from and justify your choice (3)
- 2 Read the information and question below. Highlight/annotate the area that prompts you to demonstrate your AO2 skills. Describe two different explanations the cognitive psychologists might use to help Rob understand why he is suffering with depression. (4)
3. Looking at the graph on the screen, what trends can you identify?

Task 3: Memory

Mini Experiment:

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 can recall from any line? (If you used more than one participant, take the average).
- 2) What do your results suggest about memory?

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?

An important implication of research into memory is how this informs our understanding of eyewitness testimony (EWT).

Research Loftus and Palmer's research study into EWT.

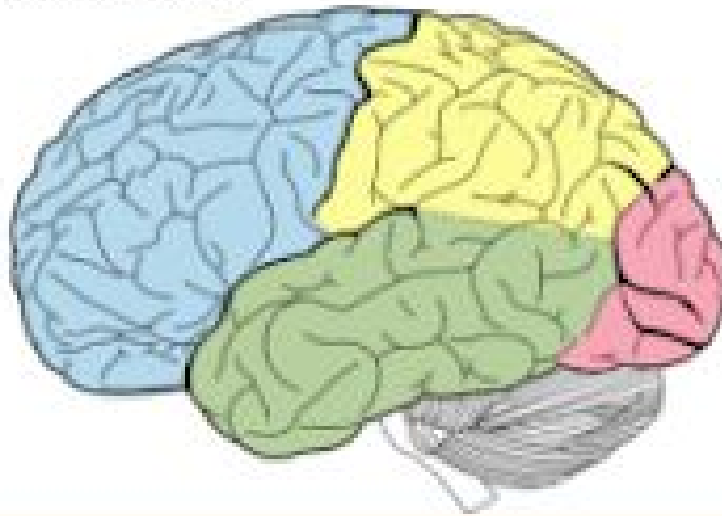
Elizabeth Loftus was recently involved in a high profile criminal case with Harvey Weinstein. Read the article and summarise [Harvey Weinstein trial](#).

Task 4: Biopsychology

Biopsychologists look at the links between the brain and behaviour.

They are interested in brain injury and what impact that can have on the brain and behaviour.

1. Who was Phineas Gage? What happened to him?
2. What are the 4 lobes of the brain called?
3. What is Broca's aphasia?



Online Viewing

YouTube Clips/Documentaries

- Trial of OJ Simpson
- Stephen Fry - The Secret Life of the Manic Depressive
- The Fritzi Affair
- Freud Documentary - short clip
- The Nurture Room
- Charles Whitman
- Motivation and rewards in learning

Ted Talks

- Petter Johansson - Do you really want to know why you do what you do?
- Depressed dogs and cats - what animal madness means for us humans
- Elizabeth Loftus - the fiction of memory
- Scott Fraser - the problem with eyewitness testimony
- Zimbardo on the psychology of evil
- 10 myths about psychology debunked

Finally, it would seem strange to not consider what is going on in the world at the moment - psychology is always seeking to explain and understand patterns of behaviour. With this in mind, have a look at the wider reading into the effects of **Covid-19** on our behaviours:

Article link	Link to psychology/article focus
https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-33/april-2020/coronavirus-psychological-perspectives	This is a list compiled by the British Psychological Society of articles relating to Covid-19 (it is continually updated)
https://digest.bps.org.uk/2020/03/26/how-psychology-researchers-are-responding-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/	A general overview of the research that is currently taking place
https://metro.co.uk/2020/04/18/like-ocd-coronavirus-pandemic-12572793/	Living with OCD in during the virus outbreak (psychopathology)
https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/apr/20/number-of-footballers-with-depression-symptoms-doubles-during-shutdown-survey-fifpro-coronavirus	Footballers and depression during the outbreak (psychopathology)
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/04/psychologists-watching-coronavirus-social-distancing-coping/	Isolation and mental health effects (psychopathology)
https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/stretching-theory/202003/is-zero-risk-bias-impairing-your-crisis-response	Cognitive aspects of what's shaping our behaviour during this time (cognitive psychology)
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/this-is-the-psychological-side-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-that-were-ignoring/	'the world's biggest psychological experiment' - the psychological effects of lockdown
https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200401-covid-19-how-fear-of-coronavirus-is-changing-our-psychology?ocid=twfut	Could there be long lasting changes to our social behaviour? (Social influence and change)
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2020/mar/new-study-psychological-and-social-effects-covid-19	Current study into the psychological effects of Covid-19 - you can sign up to take part!

