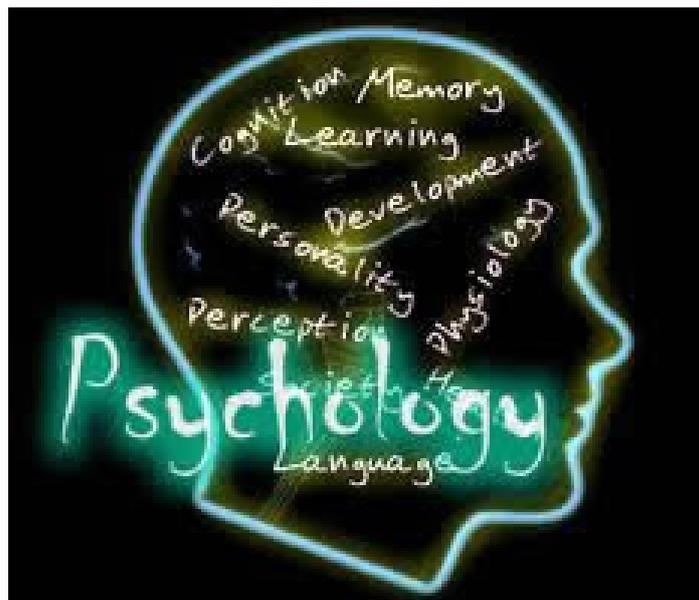


A Level Psychology Handbook

2020 - 2022



Why choose to study Psychology?

Psychology provides an insight into human behaviour and the reasons why we act in the way that we do. It enables us to understand what controls our behaviour and how our life experiences can shape our adult personalities. It is a fabulous course for any student who is considering a career that involves working with people as well as providing opportunities to go on to study the course at university and ultimately pursue careers such as counselling, social work, health care careers, psychologists, criminal profiling to name a few!

Whatever your vision, an A level in Psychology is a valuable first step in achieving your ambition.

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 or above in GCSE English, Maths and Science as this course requires you to have an understanding of research methods and the scientific process.

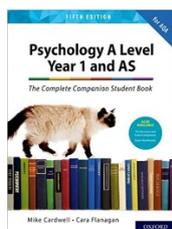
What will you study in Year 12 and 13? How & when will you be examined?

A-level Subject content across the two year course

Year 12	1 Social influence 2 Memory 3 Attachment 4 Psychopathology	Paper 1 – 7182/1 Assessed: Written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level
	5 Approaches in Psychology 6 Biopsychology 7 Research methods	Paper 2 – 7182/2 Assessed: Written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level
Year 13 These topics may be subject to some change	8 Issues and debates in Psychology 9 Relationships 10 Schizophrenia 11 Aggression	Assessed: Written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level

Useful Resources and revision guides.

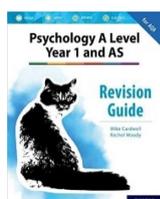
In September you will be provided with a core text book that will need returning after year 1. This will be the following:



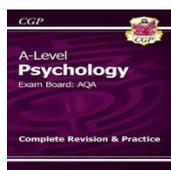
The complete companions: AQA Psychology A level Year 1 and AS student book. Oxford press. ISBN- 978-0-19-843632-4

Other useful resources are:

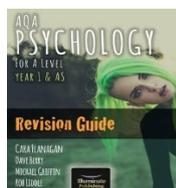
Revision



The Complete Companions: AQA Psychology A level Year 1 and AS Revision Guide by Mike Cardwell and Rachel Moody. Oxford University Press. ISBN- 978-0-19-844489-3

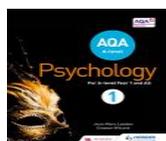


New A-Level Psychology: AQA Year 1 & 2 **Complete Revision & Practice** (Paperback). ISBN: 9781782943303

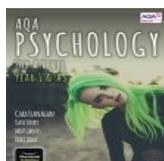


AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS - Revision Guide by Cara Flanagan , Dave Berry , By Michael Griffin , Rob Liddle. ISBN13 9781908682444

Other relevant alternative text books



AQA A-level Psychology Year 1/AS Authors: Jean-Marc Lawton and Eleanor Willard. Publisher: Hodder Education ISBN: 9781471834882



AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS - Student Book by Cara Flanagan and Dave Berry. ISBN13 9781908682406

Unfortunately, students cannot rely on just using these text books as examiners expect to see a broad range of knowledge, from a range of texts & up to date psychological examples.

Essential websites to use:-

As always, be very careful when using internet sources (which can be written by anyone). Some reliable websites for A Level Psychology include:

<u>Website</u>	<u>Website Address</u>
British psychological society	www.bps.org.uk http://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/
Revision website for psychology.	http://www.revision-notes.co.uk/IB/Psychology/index.html
Revision website for psychology	http://cranepsych.com/Psych/Index.html
The Guardian	www.guardian.co.uk
The Times	www.thetimes.co.uk
Written by a Psychology teacher/university lecturer (HIGHLY recommend)	www.simplypsychology.org
Tutor2u (highly recommend)	https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology

Other Resources - Newspapers & Journals

All psychology students should be reading quality newspapers on a weekly basis to gain up to date knowledge. Listed below is a useful magazine to support students with their studies:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Address</u>
A-Level psychology Review	Philip Allan Updates	Market Place, Deddington, Oxfordshire, OX15 0SE

Enrichment Opportunities

We decide this if they are relevant throughout the course.

Equipment Required for the Course

You will need two study folders and twelve divider cards. You will be provided with a core text book but advised to purchase additional text books/revision guides. It may be worth purchasing the core text book also as they need returning at the end of Y1.

Organisation is central to success. Please ensure to bring the following equipment to your first lesson:-

- Highlighters
- A4 Revision Cards (coloured)
- Sticky Notes
- Note Pad for a Glossary / Key terms / Note taking
- Plastic Wallets

Combine this course with

Oxford University states that 'Psychology' is a subject with which almost any combination of A level subjects are appropriate. A Level Psychology is regarded in the same light as any other A level subject, and is considered by many universities to be a science A level. Ideally, you will combine psychology with one essay based subject (Sociology, Law, Health and Social Care, Philosophy and Ethics) and one logic based subject (Maths, Biology).

Some ideal background subjects are useful if you wish to pursue Psychology further, for example elements of Biology feature in the Psychology specification at A level and at degree level. There are also elements of Sociology, Philosophy, Health and Social Care and Mathematics throughout the course, so studying any of these subjects together with Psychology would be advantageous.

A Good Course if you would like a career in;

Personnel, Police Force, Health Care Careers, Social Work, Law, Psychologist, Occupational Therapy, Counselling, Psychiatry, Pharmacology, Educational Psychology, Teaching, Occupational Therapy, Probation and many more!

Research Tasks to complete during the Summer & to be prepared ready for the start of the Psychology Course

There are text books in the school library and many useful internet websites that can help you. Make sure that you put the information that you gather into your own words. This should be a minimum of 4 sides of paper.

1. Research human memory and answer the following questions:-

- a) What is the capacity of short term and long term memory?
- b) What is the duration of short term and long term memory?
- c) How does the multi store model of memory explain how memory works?
- d) If you wanted to improve memory describe one memory improvement strategy that you could use.

2. Research human attachment behaviours and answer the following questions:

- a) What is the purpose of human attachment? How does it promote survival?
- b) What impact might failure to form an attachment have on future development?
- c) How might attachments be measured? Which technique and how does it work?

3. Researching the approaches in Psychology:-

- a) What are the key aspects of the cognitive approach in explaining human behaviour?
- b) What are the key aspects of the behaviourist approach in explaining human behaviour?
- c) What are the key aspects of Social Learning Theory in explaining human behaviour?
- d) What are the key aspects of the biological approach in explaining human behaviour?
- e) What are the key aspects of the psychodynamic approach in explaining human behaviour?
- f) What are the key aspects of the humanistic approach in explaining human behaviour?
- g) What are the key aspects of biopsychology in explaining human behaviour?

4. Social Psychology

- a) What is conformity?
- b) What is obedience?
- c) Why might we resist pressures to obey?

5. Abnormality

- a) What is normal? Try to come up with your own definition
- b) What causes schizophrenia? Identify 3 explanations for this mental health problem.
- c) How are mental health disorders treated? Explain some of the types of treatment

6. Research methods

- a) What is an independent variable?
- b) How do you calculate a mean?
- c) What is the difference between a bar chart and a histogram?
- d) What do the terms reliability and validity mean (in the context of Psychology)?
- e) What is a directional hypothesis?