

PSYCHOLOGY

Introduction

Well done for considering taking Psychology A Level. We currently study the AQA Sociology specification. Here is a link that will take you to it so you can have an in-depth look at what you will be studying:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>

This pack contains activities and resources to prepare you to start an A Level Psychology in September. Everyone must have this pack printed off and completed for the first lesson. It is aimed that you start this after you get your GCSE results, to ensure you are well prepared to commence in September.

The pack will introduce you to some of the key information needed to succeed in Psychology and topics you will study, such as the approaches in Psychology and research methods. You will need to complete this booklet in full and have it in your folder at the start of the year.

If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to email me, Mrs S Falcon, Curriculum Leader, Psychology: SFalcon1@chacademy.co.uk

AS and A Level Psychology Topics and Assessment

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192>

You will be entered and sit 2 equally weighted AS exams at the end of the first year in May.

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology	+	Paper 2: Psychology in context
What's assessed Compulsory content 1–3 above		What's assessed Compulsory content 4–6 above
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 72 marks in total 50% of AS 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 72 marks in total 50% of AS
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks 		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks

You will sit three equally weighted A Level exams at the end of the second year of study in May/June.

- Paper 1: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology
- Paper 2: Approaches, Biopsychology, Research methods
- Paper 3: Issues and debates, gender, schizophrenia, forensics

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology	+	Paper 2: Psychology in context	+	Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology
What's assessed Compulsory content 1–4 above		What's assessed Compulsory content 5–7 above		What's assessed Compulsory content 8 above Optional content, one from option 1, 9–11, one from option 2, 12–14, one from option 3, 15–17 above
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks 		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 48 marks 		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section B: one topic from option 1, 9–11 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section C: one topic from option 2, 12–14 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section D: one topic from option 3, 15–17 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks

Reading list for A Level Psychology

It is expected that you can demonstrate to the examiners that you have been partaking in wider reading. Below is a list of books/journals and websites you could use over the next two years and beyond at university.

Please do speak to ex-students, they may be willing to give or sell you their textbook. Likewise, there are second hand copies on Amazon. Please do not feel obliged to purchase a brand new textbook.

Textbooks for the course

First year

We expect all students to have a hard copy of this book.

AQA A Level Psychology for Year 1 by Cara Flanagan, Dave Berry, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle.

ISBN: 978-1-908682-40-6 (girl with green hair on the cover) approx. £25

There are lots of revision books out there but these two are brilliant for Year 1. We do not ask you buy them but do recommend them:

- *AQA A Level Psychology for Year 1* by Cara Flanagan

ISBN: 978-1-908682-44-4 (girl with green hair on the cover- revision guide)

- *AQA A Level Psychology for Year 1 flash book* from Illuminate publishing. ISBN: 978-1-911208-40-2

Second Year

AQA A Level Psychology for Year 2 by Cara Flanagan, Dave Berry, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle.

ISBN: 978-1-908682-41-3 (girl with pink hair on the cover) approx. £29.50

There are lots of revision books out there but these two are brilliant for Year 2. We do not ask you buy them but do recommend them:

- *AQA A Level Psychology for Year 2* by Cara Flanagan. ISBN: 978-1-908682-45-1 (girl with pink hair on the cover- revision guide)
- *AQA A Level Psychology for Year 2 flash book* from Illuminate publishing. ISBN: 978-1-911208-42-6

This is a selection of books for enrichment and extension over the two years. We would expect our students to have read at least two a year.

Reading List

- *Working Memory, Thought and Action* - Alan Baddeley
- *The Lucifer Effect* - Phillip Zimbardo
- *Obedience to Authority* - Stanley Milgram
- *Fundamentals of Cognition* - Michael Eysenck
- *Psychology: The Science of the Mind and Behaviour* - Richard Gross
- *The Complete Companions: AQA Psychology Year 1 and AS Student Book* - Mike Cardwell & Cara Flanagan
- *AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS Student Book* - Cara Flanagan & Dave Berry

You can also use student friendly websites including:

- <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference> (they also have videos on their YouTube channel)
- <http://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html> - tailored to the old specification, but has all the relevant key information for A Level Psychology
- <http://www.psychteacher.co.uk/> - tailored to the old specification but contains key information for A Level Psychology.

For your first lesson...

We expect you to have the following:

- A level arched folder, labelled with your name on and Psychology (spelt correctly).
- There must be dividers in your folder - plastic ones are better as they are tougher.
- Your own lined paper
- Plenty of plastic wallets.
- A pencil case with the usual including highlighters
- A copy of the Year 1 textbook
- Your task homework contained in this booklet.

Tasks

Please complete the five tasks on the Psychology transition tasks Powerpoint presentation and bring your findings to the first lesson.

Task	Completed (tick when completed)
Marvellous Memory	
Attachment	
Social Influence	
Psychopathology	
Approaches to Psychology	

Bridging tasks for Year 11 into Year 12

- Complete a free online learning course and bring theory notes and certificate of participation, if you have the time to create questions to go along side this that would be useful (see list below from OpenLearn)

OpenLearn courses: https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue		Hours
Psychology	Childhood in the digital age	12
	Essay and report skills	15
	Exploring data: graphs and numerical summaries	20
	Exploring sport coaching and psychology	24
	Forensic Psychology	24
	Health and safety in the laboratory and field	1
	Introduction to child psychology	8
	An introduction to data and information	20
	Starting with psychology	5
	Reading and notetaking – preparation for study	12
	Psychological research, obedience and ethics	5
Science, maths and tech	Working with charts, graphs and tables	15
	Using numbers and handling data	12

Future Learn courses: https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/psychology-and-mental-health-courses/psychology	Hours per week	No of weeks
Forensic Psychology: Witness investigation	8	3
Logical and critical thinking	8	4
Introduction to cognitive psychology: an experimental science	3	4
Psychology and mental health: beyond nature and nurture	6	3
Introduction to psychology: the history of science and psychology	2	6
Introduction to psychology: biological psychology	2	6
Introduction to psychology: the psychology of learning	2	6
What is a mind?	6	3
Introduction to psychology: developmental psychology	2	6
Introduction to psychology: the psychology of personality	2	6
Introduction to psychology: sensation and perception	2	6

The benefit of the OpenLearn courses is they can start at any time and get the certificate of participation included, the FutureLearn courses are provided by other universities but you have to pay for the certificate and have specific start dates. The FutureLearn ones may be better as optional enrichment over the summer break.