

A-Level Psychology Bridging Work

Welcome to the Psychology department.

The majority of you will not have studied psychology before. It's a fascinating subject which impacts every part of our lives.

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 7182

Examination: 3 exams at the end of Y13

Unit 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

Students will study three topics within this unit: **Social Influence, Attachment, Memory and Psychopathology**. Each topic require students to explain key concepts and ideas, evaluate those ideas using research evidence and also to apply knowledge to an unseen scenario.

Unit 2: Psychology in context

For this unit students will study **Research Methods, Biopsychology and Approaches**. Students are asked to explain and evaluate a range of research methods and will also be assessed on their ability to analyse and perform basic calculations of data. The Approaches topic includes a range of psychological theories and students will need to be able to describe and evaluate each theory.

Unit 3: Issues and options in Psychology

This unit reflects the pure A Level content of options chosen as well as the underpinning the Issues and debates topic. In the Issues and debates topic students will explore issues such as gender bias within Psychology. Options chosen at A Level are **Schizophrenia, Gender and Addiction**.

In order to prepare you for the course, there is one task for each topic you will cover for paper 1. This must be completed for the first lesson you attend.

Topic	Task
Social influence	Research and produce a fact sheet on two key studies: 1) Milgram: Obedience to Authority 2) Zimbardo: Stanford Prison experiment
Psychopathology	Produce a fact file on each of the following mental disorders. Include symptoms, potential causes and treatments. 1) Phobias 2) Depression 3) OCD
Memory	Research and draw out the multi store memory model. Explain how the model works using specialist terminology (2 paragraphs)
Attachment	Research and produce a fact sheet on two key studies: 1) Rutter et al (2011) English and Romanian Adoptee Study 2) Zeanah et al (2005) Bucharest Early Intervention Project
Research methods	Research the definitions for the word list below

	Definition
Hypothesis (Null, Experimental, Alternative)	
Independent Variable	
Dependent Variable	
Objectivity	
Subjectivity	
Control Condition	
Experimental condition	
Experiment	
Natural Experiment	
Field experiment	
Lab experiment	
Questionnaire (open and closed questions)	

Interviews (structured and unstructured)	
Observation (Participant and non participant, overt and covert)	
Inter-observer reliability	
Case study	
Correlation (positive and negative, no correlation)	
Scatter graph	
Time sampling	
Extraneous (confounding) variables	
Standardised procedure/instructions	
Representative	
Generalisability (Extrapolate)	

Independent measures design	
Repeated measures design	
Matched pairs design	
Demand Characteristics	
Researcher bias	
Counterbalancing	
Random allocation	
Randomisation	
Target population	
Sample	
Opportunity sampling	
Random sampling	
Stratified sampling	

Mean	
Mode	
Median	
Range	
Anomalous results	
Percentages	
Bar chart	
Line graph	
Ecological Validity	
Predictive validity	
Concurrent validity	
Face validity	

WIDER READING TO PREPARE FOR COURSE

- Baddeley, A., Eysenck, M., Anderson, C. (2014) Memory. Psychology Press; 2 edition
- Bowlby, J. (2005) The making and breaking of affectional bonds. Routledge; New Ed edition.
- Milgram, S. (2010) 'Obedience to Authority'. London, Pinter & Martin Ltd.
- Eysenck, M. W. and M. T. Keane (2010). Cognitive psychology: a student's handbook. . Hove, Psychology Press.
- Hogg, M. A. and G. M. Vaughan (2010). Essentials of social psychology. London, Prentice Hall
- Slater, L. (2005) Opening Skinner's box: Great psychological experiments in the twentieth century. Bloomsbury Publishing PLC
- Zimbardo, P. (2008) The Lucifer effect: how good people turn evil. Rider.

- A Level student magazine: Psychology Review