Lawnswood School Social Science Department

A-Level Psychology

We are delighted you have chosen to study Psychology A Level with us!

We are with the exam board AQA. The AQA website has more detailed information on the course.

The exam board specification - https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/a-level/psychology-7182/specification/specification-at-a-glance

Here is a quick outline so you know what to expect.

Over the course of the next two years you will prepare for three exams

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology:

- Social Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Attachment
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

Paper 2: Psychology in Context:

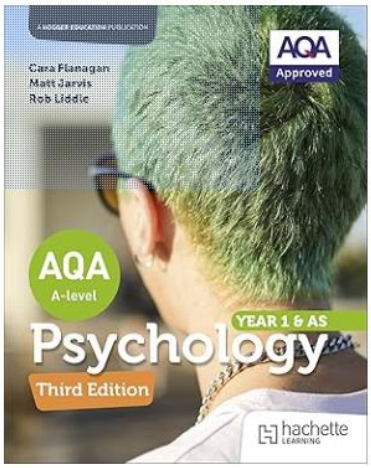
- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology:

- Issues and Debates
- Gender or Relationships or Cognition and development

- Schizophrenia or Eating disorders or Stress
- Aggression or Forensic Psychology or Addiction
- Psychology reading list, websites, podcasts:

Our main course text book in year 12



AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS

Cara Flanagan, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle

ISBN 978-1036011970

Reading list:

The Lucifer Effect – Philip Zimbardo
The Man Who Couldn't Stop - David Adam
The Psychopath Test - Jon Ronson
The Skeleton Cupboard - Tanya Byron
The Marshmallow Test - Walter Mischel
Man (Dis)connected by Philip Zimbardo
Behind the Shock Machine by Gina Perry
Quirkology by Richard Wiseman

Websites and articles:

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/subject-content-as/introductory-topics-in-psychology (Link to specs)

https://alevelpsychology.net/

https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology

https://www.simplypsychology.org/

https://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/psychology

https://science.howstuffworks.com/life/inside-the-mind/human-brain/human-memory2.htm (Short term vs long term memory)

https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/amnesia/symptoms-causes/syc-20353360 (What happens when our memories are faulty?)

https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/attachment (What is attachment? Why is it important?)

https://www.brainfacts.org/3d-brain#intro=false&focus=Brain-cerebral_hemisphere-right&zoom=true (3D brain)
https://www.ted.com

Podcasts:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxx9/episodes/downloads

https://www.theguardian.com/science/series/science+psychology

FOYF:
Explore careers and routes within the different types of psychology
- https://careers.bps.org.uk/

Summer Tasks

Introduction to Psychology

Some people think psychology is just common sense – but it isn't. In some ways, psychology can be seen as a *test* of common sense. Psychology has shown that what we have always strongly believed to be true often turns out to be wrong. And sometimes things that sound like wild ideas turn out to be true.
Psychology specialises in what are called counter-intuitive findings. These are the results from psychological research studies that you just didn't expect, which pleasingly surprisingly contradicts common sense.
Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour, from communication and memory to thought and emotion.

As an introduction to the subject, explore some key concepts, apply them to some of the key theories you will be studying and think about what psychology can tell us about human behaviour today

Search the internet to find the definition of these key terms:

1. Nature
2. Nurture
3. Attachment
4. Deprivation
5. Free will
6. Neuron
7. Schema
8. Operant conditioning
9. Experiment
10. Sample
11. Ethical issues

Social Influence

Obedience: Milgram's research

Milgram's study of obedience remains one of the most iconic experiments in social psychology. Milgram (1963) wanted an answer to the question to why the German population had followed the orders of Hitler and slaughtered over 10 million Jews, Gypsies and members of other social groups in the Holocaust during the Second World War.

He wanted to know if the Germans were different - were they more obedient?

When he began his research, Adolph Eichmann had recently been sentenced to death for his role in the Holocaust., despite his plea that he was 'only obeying orders'. How far would you go in the name of obedience?

Using a psychology text book (if you have one), the websites listed above and the following documentary, answer the questions on Milgram's infamous study into obedience.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ-XEAmCmT0

1. Who were the participants in this study and how were they selected? Was this a representative sample, why or why not?
2. What were the roles assigned to the participants and how were they assigned?
3. What were the predictions of the results before the study?
4. What were the actual results of the study?
5. Were you surprised?
6. Can you think of any ethical issues with the experiment?
7. What can we conclude from Milgram's finding about human behaviour

Extension task - Draw or create a 3D image of what the lab looked like including the shock generator.

Memory

Find out the answers to the following questions…

1. What is memory and what are the different types of memory?

_____
_____
_____
_____

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? Why not have a go yourself!

_____
_____
_____

4. How have psychologist tried to explain why we forget?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Try think of their earliest memory as vividly as they can, and consider what factors might affect how well they can remember.

Have a go at this - Match up cards by remembering the position of each one.
https://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/memoryandmatching/findthepairs/

Using the internet and any psychology text book (if you have one), summaries what each approach suggests about human behaviour – Include at least 1 page per theory. You could include their views on memory, social influence, aggression or attachment.

Behavioural	Cognitive	Biological	Psychodynamic

If you have any questions about the course before we start, please email us on:

zuhra.ullah@elawnswood.co.uk – Ms Ullah

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Department of Social Science