



LAWNSWOOD
SCHOOL



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 - [AQA | Psychology | A-level | A-level Psychology](#)

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 Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

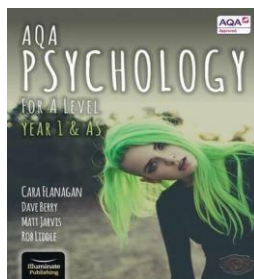
Paper 2: Psychology in Context:

- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

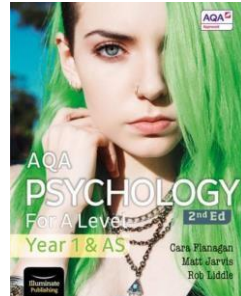
Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology:

- 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



1st edition



2nd edition

AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS

Cara Flanagan, Dave Berry, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle

ISBN 978-1908682406

**NEW EDITION OF THIS TEXTBOOK IS TO BE
RELEASED SOON**

Psychology

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

Websites and articles:

[AQA | Psychology | A-level | A-level Psychology](#) (Link to specs)

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/>

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/life/inside-the-mind/human-brain/humanmemory2.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.brainfacts.org/3d-brain#intro=false&focus=Brain-cerebral_hemisphereright&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

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. It helps us understand how people think, feel, and act.

Psychologists ask questions like:

- Why do people behave the way they do?
- How do we learn and remember things?
- What causes emotions like anger?
- How do our brains affect our actions?

As an introduction to the subject, explore some key concepts and apply them to some of the key theories you will be studying. 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-XEAmCmTO>

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 psychologists tried to explain why we forget?

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

Approaches in Psychology

Using the internet and any psychology text book (if you have one), summarise 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:

Sophie.hammond@elawnswood.co.uk Mrs Hammond

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

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Department of Social Science