



'Bridging the Gap'

PSYCHOLOGY





Preparation for Sixth Form Psychology

Exam Specification

- We follow the AQA exam specification. A copy of it can be found by following this link <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/subject-content-a-level>
- Once you click on the link you will open a webpage which shows you the heading for each paper. Click on the headings to see the topics we cover.
- In Year 12, you will study paper 1 and paper 2 – Introductory topic and psychology in context.

Textbook

- You will work from an online textbook.
- The textbook has many more features than a paper textbook, allowing you to access websites and extension tasks.
- You will receive the log in details once you start the course with us.

Paper 1 – Introducing Psychology

- This paper looks at how psychology has been used to help us understand a variety of behaviours.
- Memory – watch the following clip on Youtube. This short video discusses the Multi Store Model of memory. This model was the first attempt to work out what types of memory we have and how these are stored. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G9IK_mUmRE
- Memory – practical task
- Having watched the video you will know that the short term memory has a capacity of 5-9 items. Test this on family and friends. Write a list of numbers on a piece of paper, read them out one at a time in increasing quantities, asking your participant to recall each number sequence
- For example : You – “1” participant “1”, You- “1,3” participant “1,3”
- Read them as single digits not 13. See how many numbers they can recall. Does your data match the theory that 9 numbers is the maximum?
- Social Influence – using Google, research Milgram’s study into obedience. You might be “shocked” by what you find!!
- Can you identify any issues with this research? Did Milgram look after his participants well being? If not, what did he do wrong?

Paper 2 – Psychology in Context

- This paper looks at the origins and basic principles of psychology
- Approaches – these are the viewpoints psychologists will take when trying to explain or treat a behaviour
- Social Learning theory believes that we learn our behaviours from watching others, copying them and receiving a reward for our behaviour.
- Watch the first 7 minutes of the following video on Social Learning Theory and see if you can apply its ideas to any of your own behaviours or those around you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BM7gXsQH2xg>
- Research Methods – This is a significant part of psychology. Without research there would be no evidence that theories are correct or incorrect. A lack of research would stop psychology developing.
- You will need to be able to design a piece of research in your exam
- Throughout the year we will study different ways of researching behaviour. One easy way is through observation. Here is one for you to try.
- Write a list of 5 behaviours you would expect to see people in a park doing. Go to the park, sit on a bench, watch the people in the park for 10 minutes and do a tally chart next to your list of behaviours



- Were you right when you made your list? Did people perform the behaviours you expected them to? Were they any behaviours you now wish you could have added to your list?

Paper 3 – Issues and Options

- This final paper draws on all the skills you will learn in Year 12.
- Topics are – Schizophrenia, Addiction, Gender and Relationships and Issues and debates.
- These topics contain some high level psychology so we will save these for Year 13.

Key Psychological Studies

Use the following links to read the studies, most of which you will be learning about in your course (some are exam board specific).

For each of the five studies listed below summarise the following in 100-150 words:

- Background and Aim(s)
- Method (procedure and details of the sample)
- Results (this could be written or included on a graph – as long as you explain your graph)
- Conclusion(s)

This information is called 'AO1'. It is all about describing or outlining something. This may be describing a study, an explanation or a model.

This element of the question will begin.... AO1 = Describe, Identify, Outline etc.

- <https://simplypsychology.org/milgram.html> - Milgram
- <https://www.simplypsychology.org/zimbardo.html> - Zimbardo
- <https://www.canonsocialwerk.eu/1971stigma/1973%20Rosenhan%20Being%20sane%20in%20insane%20places%20OCR.pdf> - Rosenhan
- <https://www.simplypsychology.org/loftus-palmer.html> - Loftus and Palmer
- <https://www.simplypsychology.org/marv-ainsworth.html> - Ainsworth
- <http://www.holah.karoo.net/rainestudv.htm> - Raine

Key Research Quiz

- 1) How many participants were there in Milgram's study?
 - a) 20
 - b) 40
 - c) 50
 - d) 60
- 2) How long (range and mean) were pseudo patients admitted to the hospitals for?
 - a) 7-52 (19 day mean)
 - b) 8-52 (18 day mean)
 - c) 9-48 (19 day mean)
 - d) 7-53 (19 day mean)
- 3) What was the speed estimate when the verb 'smashed' was used?
 - a) 40.6mph
 - b) 48.1mph
 - c) 40.8mph
 - d) 41.8mph
- 4) What role did Zimbardo play in the Stamford prison experiment?
 - a) A guard
 - b) A prisoner
 - c) A warden
 - d) The chief superintendent



- 5) How were the prisoners for Zimbardo's study 'collected'?
- Arrested at home and handcuffed by police officer
 - Arrested at home by Zimbardo
 - They made their own way to Stamford University for the experiment
 - Arrested at home by the guards in the study

Research - 5 Things to Find out Ready for September

- Find out which exam board your school or college follows for Psychology.
- Download and print off the specification for the exam board. Add it to a folder that you will be using to store your notes from the course. Read the specification, highlight it (especially details of the exams - content and length etc.) and if you have any questions about the course make a note and ask your teacher on day one. In your second year you will learn 'option' topics. Your college or school will have decided which of these options you will learn about. Find out which options you will cover and read the specification requirements on those topics - ignore the options that you will not be learning about.
- Look on the exam board's website for past papers and mark schemes. Get familiar with the exam papers and the types of questions you are likely to be asked. Look at the mark schemes, especially the 'generic' mark schemes, for longer questions.
- These 'generic' mark schemes can be found in the appendices or appear like a large table in the mark scheme booklet. This means that for longer questions, such as 15 marks for A Level OCR or 16 marks for AQA, you will be marked in a similar way for skill, organisation and Assessment Objectives. The content will obviously be dependent upon the exam question given.
- Download the command words from your exam board website. What does the word 'discuss' mean (for example)? This will give you an insight into how you need to structure your answers and the type of language you need to use.
- Some suggested links are provided below:

AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology/teach/command-words>

OCR

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/images/16206-a-parent-s-guide-to-understanding-exam-techniques.pdf>

Edexcel

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Psvchology/2015/s_pecification-and-sample-assessments/AL-Specification-Psvchology.pdf (pages 79-80)

- Download the key terms provided by your exam board.

Final Task

- Read, listen to and watch plenty of psychology based items. All of which are found on the psychology reading list.
- The link below will take you to a website which has summaries of current research. It's a good way to access research
<https://digest.bps.org.uk/>