**A Level Psychology Study Period Guide – Autumn Term 2022: Clinical Psychology**

This guide is designed to help year 13 Psychology students with their independent revision during their study periods.

**Exam board:** Edexcel. For a detailed look at the specification, click the below link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Psychology/2015/specification-and-sample-assessments/AL-Specification-Psychology.pdf>

In year 13 you will study Clinical and Criminal psychology which forms the basis of **Paper 2: Applications of Psychology.** This paper constitutes 35% of your final grade. You will also study content for paper 3 at a later stage.

What you will be studying this term:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Clinical Psychology  | Methodology |
| * Diagnosis of mental disorders, including deviance, dysfunction, distress, and danger
* Classification systems (DSM IVR or DSM V, and ICD) for mental health, including reliability and validity of diagnoses
* Description of symptoms and features of schizophrenia
* Neurotransmitter theory as an explanation for schizophrenia
* Genetics as an explanation for schizophrenia
* Social causation as a psychological explanation for schizophrenia
* One biological and one psychological treatment for schizophrenia
* Classic study: Rosenhan (1973)
* Contemporary study: Carlsson et al. (2000)
* Description of symptoms and features of anorexia nervosa
* A biological explanation of anorexia nervosa
* A psychological explanation for anorexia
* One biological and one psychological treatment for anorexia nervosa
* Contemporary study: Guardia et al. (2012)
* Key issue – issues surrounding mental health in the workplace?
* Practical investigation – portrayal of mental health in British newspapers over the last 30 years
 | * Awareness of Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) guidelines for clinical practitioners.
* Content analysis
* Cross sectional designs
* Longitudinal designs
* Cross cultural research
* Interviews including Vallentine et al. (2010) Psycho-educational group for detained offender patients: understanding mental illness.
* Case studies including Lavarenne et al. (2013) Containing psychotic patients with fragile boundaries: a single group case study.
* Meta analysis
* Use of primary and secondary data
* Thematic analysis
* Grounded theory
* Be able to calculate all for inferential statistical tests and interpret what the data means
* Calculation and interpretation of measures of central tendency and dispersion
 |

**Purpose of independent study:**

* Familiarity with assessment objectives/ command terminology and how to evidence each of these
* Reviewing content thoroughly and regularly, highlighting areas of development
* Regular practise of examination techniques modelled in lesson and looking at feedback to see how you can further improve
* Develop understanding of psychological concepts, theories and research beyond the curriculum to explain how they have/ can improve society

**Examples of revision/ independent study activities:**

* Filling in glossaries of key terms. (Copies distributed in lesson/ available on Teams)
* Filling in blank knowledge organisers to consolidate/ summarise information covered in lesson. (Copies distributed in lesson/ available on Teams)
* Flash cards/ mind maps/ Cornell notes
* Practising examination techniques that have been modelled in lessons by completing past examination questions from ‘exam packs’ provided. Don’t forget to hand these in to be marked. (All past papers are available on Teams)
* Creating revision aids for studies/ theories using the A01/3 plan modelled in lessons
* Quizzing a friend
* Hot seating – talking for 1 minute non-stop about a given topic
* Creating a fact file on key Psychologists, such as Milgram, Bandura, Pavlov
* Prepare for next lesson by reviewing content
* Complete homework tasks

**Useful resources:**

* [www.psychologywizard.net](http://www.psychologywizard.net) Specific to Edexcel
* <https://psychologyrocksblog.wordpress.com/> useful for practising mathematical skills
* <https://www.revisely.co.uk/alevel/psychology/edexcel/> useful for videos/ content. Not all the content is exactly the same as what we cover at BCCC so be mindful you are covering the content I have directed you towards.
* <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/psychology-revision/>
* <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>
* <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/magazines-extras/psychology-review-extras> Psychology Review
* [www.simplypsychology.org](http://www.simplypsychology.org) - for information, though it is not specific to Edexcel
* <https://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/psychology> - for information, though it is not specific to Edexcel

**Additional resources: (links and more available on Teams)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Documentaries/ Movies** Mad to be Normal Life in the asylums Sybil Stephen Fry: The secret life of a manic depressive To the Bone One Flew Over the Boy Interrupted Cuckoo’s nest Girl Interrupted We Need to Talk about Kevin Joker A Beautiful Mind Shutter Island Side Effects Fight Club Stacey Dooley – On the Psy Ward Professor Green documentary of suicide  | **Podcasts/ TED talks**Anything by Oliver SacksEleanor Longden – The Voices in My Head Cecilia McGough – I am not a monster: Schizophrenia All in the Mind Podcasts Thomas Insel – Towards a new understanding of mental illness  | **Books:**The Great Pretender by Susannah Calahan – looked at actual medical records kept by hospitals on pseudopatients from Rosenhan’s study and challenges some of the conclusions reached Making us Crazy by Dorothy Rowe Reaching down the Rabbit Hole: Extraordinary journeys into the human brain (2016) by Allan Ropper and Brian David Burrell – clinical neurology; case studies into clinical psychology; written more story-like rather than series of factsThe Private Life of the Brain (2002) by Susan Greenfield – can be a hard read but useful for those interested in neuroscience. Looks at the effects of neurological disorders and injuries, actions of drugs, schizophrenia amongst a range of other things such as what is the relationship between pleasure and pain?The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat’ original published in 1985 (2011) by Oliver Sacks – bizarre short cases presented by renowned neurologistThe Mind’s Eye (2010) by Oliver Sacks - most recent book by Sacks; more specifically about patients with disorders affecting visual perception; including an account of his own experiences as a patient. |