

A level Psychology – The Science of Mind and Behaviour

Topics Year 1:		Topics Year 2:	
<u>Sept – Dec</u>	<u>Jan – July</u>	<u>Sept – Dec</u>	<u>Jan – May</u>
Approaches	Memory	Gender	Research Methods
Research Methods	Social Influence	Schizophrenia	Approaches
Psychopathology	Attachment	Forensics	Biopsychology
		Issues & Debates	
AS: 2 x 1 ½ hour exams in May/June		A level: 3 x 2-hour exams in June	

One of the first topics we will look at in September is Approaches. This is an introduction to 4 of the key scientific theories in psychology – Behaviourism, Social Learning Theory, Cognitive and Biological approaches. Each of these theories has its own assumptions as to what causes behaviour e.g., the cognitive approach believes that behaviour is caused by mental processes (thoughts that occur that produce a response).

I would like you to do some research on each of the 4 key scientific theories. What do each of them assume behaviour is caused by? Summarise your ideas about each with a picture/diagram and maximum 15 words for each!

Then explain the following behaviour from the perspective of each approach:

“Kicking a door when you are upset”

Then we will look at different topics. One we will look at in year 2 is Forensics. Research a case study of an individual convicted of a criminal behaviour.

How to do this...

1. Research information and gather facts about a crime committed, sentence etc. See if you can add pictures or quotes
2. Mount onto A4 paper with bullet points explaining why you think this person got involved. As well as your own opinions, consider the 4 different key theories above and try to include each of their views on why the behaviour occurred

Extension task

The aim is to explore key areas of Psychology in order to appreciate the application of the subject in the real world. You will read a case/chapter from one of the following books and consider the role of Psychology in that case:

“The Man Who Mistook His Wife for A Hat” by Oliver Sacks

or

“The Jigsaw Man” by Paul Britton

We will discuss these further in class when we return.

Other reading of interest: Awakenings by Oliver Sacks, Genie by Russ Rymer, Confessions of a Sociopath by M.E. Thomas, Picking up the pieces by Paul Britton.