

A level Psychology – The Science of Mind & Behaviour

Topics Year 1:		Topics Year 2:	
<u>Sept – Dec</u>	<u>Jan – May</u>	<u>Sept – Dec</u>	<u>Jan – May</u>
Approaches	Social Influence	Gender	Research Methods
Research Methods	Memory	Schizophrenia	Approaches
Psychopathology	Attachment	Forensics	Issues and debates
AS – 2 x 1 ½ hour exams in May 2021		A level - 3 x 2-hour exams in May/June 2022	

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

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

Then watch these clips and see if you can match each clip to a different approach.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy_mIEnnIF4 Sheldon (stop 1.15)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JZE17FgNrE> (children see children do)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1DnltskkWk> (will hunting stop 1.20)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSS5dEeMX64> (Mulan)

Then we can 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 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 approaches 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 produce a poster describing the case and explaining 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.