

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY



COURSE DETAILS

EXAMINING BOARD AQA

SPEC AS LEVEL = 7181

A LEVEL = 7182

TEACHER MRS B RACKSTRAW

WELCOME TO AS/A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY. IN THIS BOOKLET THERE WILL BE LOTS OF INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COURSE, ANYTHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, PLEASE JUST ASK!

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You can purchase a textbook if you wish. I recommend:

- AQA PSYCHOLOGY FOR A LEVEL. YEAR 1 AND AS FLANAGAN, BERRY, JARVIS AND LIDDLE. ILLUMINATE.
- PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL. YEAR 1 AND AS. THE COMPLETE COMPANION STUDENT BOOK. CARDWELL AND FLANAGAN. OXFORD.
- AQA PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL YEAR 1 AND AS. LAWTON AND WILLARD. HODDER.

What is Psychology?

Psychology is essentially the study of human behaviour, put more simply it aims to uncover motivating factors behind our behaviour, what makes us “tick”?

Most people, when they hear the word Psychology think of mental illness and abnormal or deviant behaviours, indeed these are topics studied in Psychology but it isn't limited to extreme behaviours. We also look at very ordinary behaviour such as memory, relationships with others and aggression.

It is important to note that as of Sep 2016 Psychology was given the status of a science subject. Whilst this has significantly raised its credibility it means the subject includes 25% Biology and 10% Maths.

Here are some examples of what Psychologists seek to understand, **you can begin to research some of these key areas.**

- Can you think yourself ill?
- Could anyone be a killer?
- Does the relationship we have with our mothers define the success of all later relationships?
- What makes a murderer?
- Does stress make us physically ill, if so how?
- Are suicide bombers mad, bad, neither or both? **Watch 7/7 Bombers A Psychological investigation- Horizon**
- Why do we behave differently in uniform? **Watch the Stanford Prison experiment and/or The Experiment (film based on Zimbardo's famous exp)**
- Is it true we are genetically pre-programmed to sniff out the ideal mate?
- Why do lap dancers earn more money when ovulating?
- Why do women like men who are good dancers?
- Why do footballers experience an increase in testosterone at home games?
- Why is the greatest surge of testosterone experienced by the goalkeeper?
- How does the brain recover after injury? **Watch Louis Theroux- A Different Brain.**
- Why did 38 people witness a murder but none of them phone the police?
Google the case study of Kitty Genovese.

YEAR 1

SOCIAL INFLUENCE

MEMORY

ATTACHMENT

APPROACHES

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

RESEARCH METHODS

YEAR 2

ISSUES AND DEBATES

RELATIONSHIPS

STRESS

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

Below are examples of the topics studied in Psychology

REPRESSION

Freud proposed the concept of repression, which states that traumatic memories are pushed into our unconscious so they cannot exist to threaten our daily well-being.

Consider the following case study. In 1969, Eileen's eight-year-old friend Susan disappeared. Twenty years later Eileen suddenly remembered what had happened to her friend. Eileen's daughter reminded her of Susan. One day she was looking into her daughter's eyes and the long-repressed memory returned. Eileen had seen her own father sexually abuse Susan and then beat her to death with a rock. He threatened to kill Eileen if she told anyone. Twenty years after the event, her father was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. (Zimbardo et al, 1995).

This was later found to be a **FALSE MEMORY**....

EYE WITNESS TESTIMONY

In 2005 **Jean Charles De Menezes** was shot dead on the London Underground as a suspected terrorist. Eye witnesses reported a bulky jacket, a big bag; one person even reported seeing explosives tied round his waist. None of this was true....

There are documentaries about this on YouTube. It's often referred to as the Stockwell shooting.

STRESS.

Some psychologists believe that certain personality types are more prone to stress than others and also that some are better able to deal with stressors. Personality types said to suffer more frequently from stress are said to have "type A personalities". (Friedman and Rosenman, (1974).

Type a personality test.

Are you a type A? Take this short test. If you agree with the majority of statements, you probably fit the Type A pattern.

1. Do you find it difficult to restrain yourself from hurrying others' speech (finishing their sentences for them)?
2. Do you often try to do more than one thing at a time? (For example eating and reading simultaneously)?
3. Do you often feel guilty if you can use extra time to relax?
4. Do you tend to get involved in a great number of projects at once?
5. Do you need to win in order to derive enjoyment from games and sports?
6. Do you generally move, walk and eat rapidly?
7. Do you agree to take on too many responsibilities?
8. Do you detest waiting in lines?

9. Do you have an intense desire to better your position in life and impress others?

Research which illnesses are linked to stress, you will be surprised!

If you study Psychology at English Martyrs, you will also get the chance to meet murderers....Yes that's right! For several years now we have held the hugely successful Behind Bars Conference. Here you get to meet ex-offenders and listen to their stories. You can ask them ANYTHING you want and gain an understanding, not just of prison life but the reasons behind their crimes.

We have also had visits from Gamblers Anonymous sharing their experiences to enable us to gain a greater understanding of addictions. For instance, is it caused by circumstances or is it the result of an "addictive personality"?

Research- reasons for addictive behaviour.

Psychology is hard, but the most worthwhile things often are! If you work hard you will reap the benefits and gain a fascinating insight into yourself and the world around you.

We enjoy fantastic results, higher than National Averages and better than other centres.

We look forward to meeting you in September! Stay Safe.

Mrs Barbara Rackstraw

