

Subject in a Page: Psychology



In a nutshell:

Psychology is the scientific study of the human psyche – this means it explores every aspect of human behaviour and tries to understand what is behind that behaviour. Psychology does not just deal with the realm of ‘abnormal’ behaviour and disorders, but it explores the ‘normal’ everyday behaviours that influence all of us. Studying Psychology develops critical analysis skills as we interrogate the various theories and approaches and exploring debates such as Nature v’s Nurture.

In Psychology we:

- Learn a new language in terms of specialist vocabulary that Psychologists use (AO1)
- Apply our knowledge and understanding to real-life examples and contexts (AO2)
- Analyse and interrogate the methods and findings from scientific studies including using data (AO1)
- Debate and consider the key issues and debates in Psychology e.g. Nature v’s Nurture (AO3)
- Critically evaluate the theories, methods and approaches (AO3)

Think like a Psychologist:

- Ask yourself: How well does theory/approach explain the behaviour?
- Real-life lens: What difference does this make to the real world? What are the economic implications? Benefits to the individual? Impact on the law?
- Focus on the big picture – where does this idea fit into the chronology of Psychology?

How does it compare to other ideas? What links can be made?

Write and talk like a Psychologist:

- Write clearly and succinctly, using the specialist terminology when appropriate.
- Support your points with evidence – citing the key studies, theorists and evidence as you write.
- When approaching ‘discuss’ questions, make sure you reach a conclusion and use language devices such as rhetorical questions which help to create a sense of discussion.

Read like a Psychologist:

When reading journal articles or blogs consider the following questions and have these questions in mind as you read:

- Which approach do they belong to? (Can you make a **prediction** from the abstract?) How credible is the evidence they are presenting?
- What other ideas/theories have I previously explored which contradict or support this?
- How does the language used by the writer create confidence that this is credible? How can I use this in my writing?

Revise like a Psychologist:

- Re-read and annotate your topic companions
- Learn key studies and the details associated with these e.g. sample sizes, finding
- Create flashcards or use of Quizlet to test your knowledge on key terminology
- Practice writing and planning essays using your revision packs
- Use the massolit videos to consolidate your understanding and make Cornell notes
- Discuss and quiz with peers

Experience it like a Psychologist:

- Read widely for pleasure and interest (use the list of recommended reads)
- Attend the trip to the Law Courts
- Apply a Psychology lens’ to your experiences out of school and your family conversations
- Access and engage with online learning promoted through Tutor2U

Progress to a career in:

- Teaching
- Counselling/Therapy
- Clinical Psychology
- Sports Psychology
- Educational Psychology
- Marketing/Advertising
- Policing
- Forensics
- Social Work