

An abstract graphic consisting of several overlapping, curved, blue shapes that resemble waves or a stylized landscape. The shapes are in various shades of blue, from a very dark navy to a medium blue. They are layered, with some appearing to be in front of others, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is a modern, minimalist design.

Sixth Form Handbook
Psychology

Contents

About the course	3
How you will be assessed	4
AS Year (First year)	4
A Level (Second year)	4
Course Reading List & Materials.....	4
Tasks before September	5
Who can I contact for help?.....	5



About the course

A Level Psychology will provide excellent job prospects to a wide range of careers either by studying Psychology further and training to be a professional Psychologist (or other mental health specialist) or in entering the workplace. Students will discover a greater understanding of themselves and of other people by studying Psychology and it will help them to appreciate the diversity of society. Psychologists study human behaviour and the causes behind it, studying Psychology will help to develop written communication and analytical skills, skills which both many employers and Universities necessitate. Psychology also complements learning in other subjects as having knowledge about brain functioning and human behaviour is of considerable benefit to students studying other courses.

Psychology combines several subjects' skills including high literacy levels, and a keen scientific enquiring mind. As well as these specific skills there are some more general skills that are essential for success on the course. These include:

A motivation and resilience to succeed

A willingness to work hard

Time management and organisational skills

The topics covered in A level Psychology are;

Year 1

Social influence – Conformity, obedience and resistant behaviour.

Memory – Models of memory, forgetting and influences on eyewitness testimony in crimes.

Attachment – Explanations of attachment, animal studies into attachment and growing up without/broken attachments

Approaches in Psychology - A summary of some of the different types/approaches in Psychology (Behaviourism, Cognitive and Biological)

Psychopathology – Explanations and treatments of OCD, Phobias and Depression.

Research methods – An overview on how to carry out research in Psychology including how to analyse data (stats).

Year 2

Issues and Debates in Psychology – Gender/cultural biases, ethical issues and nature nurture debate.

Gender development – Sex V's Gender, explanations of gender development and the influence of media and culture

Schizophrenia – Explanations and treatments of Schizophrenia (Psychological and Biological)

Forensic Psychology – Offender profiling, explanations of criminal behaviour (Psychological and Biological), Dealing with offending behaviour (i.e. custodial sentencing).

Top up of material on topics, Approaches in Psychology with greater focus on Biological Psychology to include brain structure/functions and biological rhythms in the body and also extra material on Research methods (including statistical testing)

Revision of material from year 1.

How you will be assessed

AS Year (First year)

No external examination in the first year, only internal mock exams to assess progress.

A Level (Second year)

Paper 1

Introductory topics in Psychology: Social influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology

Written exam 96 marks total, 24 marks each section. 2 hour exam 33.3% of A level

Paper 2

Psychology in Context: A) Approaches in Psychology, B) Biopsychology C) Research methods

Written exam 96 marks total, 24 marks section A and B and 48 marks section C. 2 hour exam 33.3% of A level

Paper 3

Issues & Options in Psychology: Issues & Debates in Psychology, Gender development, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology

Written exam 96 marks total, 24 marks each section. 2 hour exam 33.3% of A level

Course Reading List & Materials

Books

These are issued to students at the start of the academic year

AQA Psychology for A level year 1 & AS by Flanagan, Berry, Jarvis and Liddle, published by Illuminate publishing. ISBN 9781908682406

AQA Psychology for A level year 2 by Flanagan, Berry, Jarvis and Liddle, published by Illuminate publishing. ISBN 9781908682413

Not issued but will supplement learning/revision

AQA Psychology for A level year 1 & AS Revision guide by Flanagan, Berry, Jarvis and Liddle, published by Illuminate publishing. ISBN 9781908682444

Psychology A level Year 1 and AS The complete companion student book, Cardwell and Flanagan, published by Oxford. ISBN 9780198338642

Psychology A level Year 2 The complete companion student book, Cardwell and Flanagan, published by Oxford. ISBN 9780198338680

Useful websites

AQA exam board link to access specification and specimen papers/mark schemes

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>

For online book used in lessons/home learning

<http://www.illuminate.digital/aqapsych1/>

You will need the username and password – User name: spoolehigh, password: student

AS topics for revision

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html>

<http://www.psychology4a.com/as-psychology.html>

<http://www.psychteacher.co.uk/>

Tasks before September

1. Access the AQA web site (top web link) download and print off the specification for AS/ Year 1 Psychology 7181-7182, Pages 8-25 and place in a ring binder folder ready for the first lesson.

2. Using the second web link above (illuminate.digital) access the online book course text book and read through the chapters on Approaches and Memory

3. Our first teaching topics are Approaches and Memory so you need to make your own notes on these topics in preparation. Only the theory parts initially need covering (left hand side of page spread) **not** the evaluations (right hand page of spread).

Approaches Pages, 104-105, 106,108,110,112 and draw and label the types of neuron on page 116 and the synaptic transmission on page 117.

Memory pages 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56 only.

When writing these notes complete them on separate sheets of paper and place in a ring binder folder.

4. You need to also watch these videos and make your own notes to show in lesson.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G9IK_mUmRE on the multistore model

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xwNFb9tsxg on the working memory model

The notes need to be completed for your return in September.

Who can I contact for help?

Mrs N Godden (n.godden@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk)

