

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Y12 PREP WORK



Name:
Form:
Teacher:

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to psychology at DWHS. This booklet will help you prepare for the A-Level Psychology course by giving you a foundational understanding of the subject and the key areas you will be studying in depth over the next two years.

What is psychology:

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. It explores how people think, feel, and act both as individuals and in groups.

What is a Psychological Approach?

A psychological approach is a way of explaining behaviour, such as biological, cognitive, or behavioural approaches. In your A-Level, we will study several approaches to understand behaviour in different contexts.

A-Level psychology rationale:

In the Psychology department, we aim to develop your knowledge of how and why people behave the way they do. The subject encourages critical thinking, research skills, and an understanding of human diversity. Our goal is for students to apply psychological concepts and research to real-world issues and develop empathy and insight into themselves and others.

A-Level psychology – what topics will we cover?

Year 12	Introduction to psychology	Research methods	Social influence	Memory	Attachment	Clinical psychology & mental health
Year 13	Biopsychology	Issues and debates	Schizophrenia	Relationships	Aggression	

Click the link to access the spec and see what we will study: <https://cdn.sanity.io/files/p28bar15/development/5e92a1d5d836855e00d9347aad46698796c2bf04.pdf>

A-Level psychology – how will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology	+	Paper 2: Psychology in Context	+	Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology
Assessed • 2 hour written exam • 96 marks • 33.3% of A-level Questions • Section A: social influence, 24 marks • Section B: memory, 24 marks • Section C: attachment, 24 marks • Section D: psychopathology, 24 marks		Assessed • 2 hour written exam • 96 marks • 33.3% of A-level Questions • Section A: approaches, 24 marks • Section B: biopsychology, 24 marks • Section C: research methods, 48 marks		Assessed • 2 hour written exam • 96 marks • 33.3% of A-level Questions • Section A: issues and debates, 24 marks • Section B: relationships, 24 marks • Section C: schizophrenia, 24 marks • Section D: aggression, 24 marks

TASK TO COMPLETE BEFORE BEGINNING THE COURSE

TASK ONE: WATCH THE FOLLOWING CLIP AND WRITE DOWN 5 THINGS YOU LEARN ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

TASK ONE: WATCH THIS VIDEO ON THE STANFORD PRISON EXPERIMENT AND ANSWER THE Q'S: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=760lwYmpXbc>

1) What was the aim of the Stanford Prison Experiment?

2) What were the main findings?

3) Do you think the experiment was ethical? Explain why or why not.

TASK TO COMPLETE BEFORE BEGINNING THE COURSE

TASK THREE: USE THE FOLLOWING TO FIND A NEWS STORY WHICH MIGHT RELATE TO PSYCHOLOGY. WRITE A SHORT SUMMARY AND BRING THIS TO YOUR FIRST LESSON:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>



EXTRA LEARNING:

Films & documentaries:

- The Stanford Prison Experiment (film)
- Three Identical Strangers (documentary on nature vs nurture)
- Brain Games (National Geographic series)
- The Mind Explained (Netflix series)
- The Psychology of Evil (BBC documentary)

Wider reading:

- Thinking, Fast and Slow – Daniel Kahneman
- The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat – Oliver Sacks
- Blink – Malcolm Gladwell
- Behave – Robert Sapolsky
- Psychology: Themes and Variations – Wayne Weiten
- Influence – Robert Cialdini

Recommended websites:

- [Tutor2u psychology](#)
- [Simply Psychology](#)
- [British Psychological Society](#)