



Welcome to Psychology at Worcester Sixth Form College



This session will aim to:

- Outline what psychology is and isn't
- Explain what is involved in the course
- Give you more information to allow you to make a decision about whether to take A level Psychology



What is Psychology?

PSYCHOLOGY



Psychology *is...* 'The Science of Mind and Behaviour'

- A science A level
- The study of mental processes e.g. thinking, memorising, what thinking errors we make.
- But also observable behaviours e.g. aggression or autism
- **Scientific** and mathematical 10% maths skills
- Involves lots of content and written work

A very broad subject with many different areas



Aims to explain why most people do, and think the things that they do

There are many misconceptions about this new subject!



- Just common sense/ an easy option
- You use your own opinion
- All about reading people's minds/ analysing dreams or body language
- It will involve lots of debating and practicals
- You will be a psychologist after doing it at A level



**What does the course
involve?**

Year one topics



Cognition and Development



Attachments



Stress



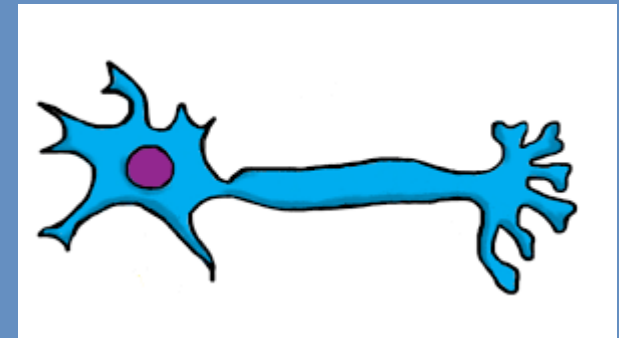
Psychopathology



Psychological Approaches



Research Methods

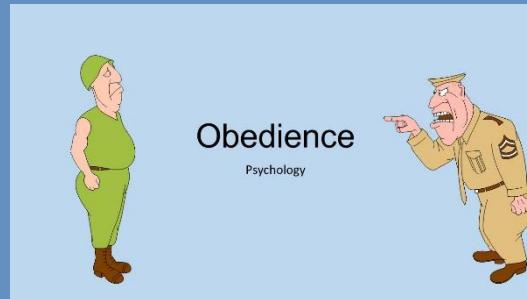


Bio Psychology

Year Two Topics



Aggression



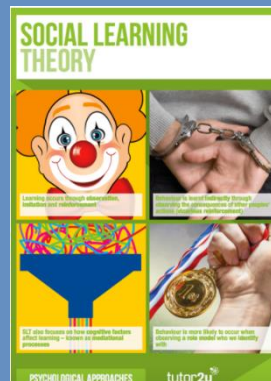
Social Influence



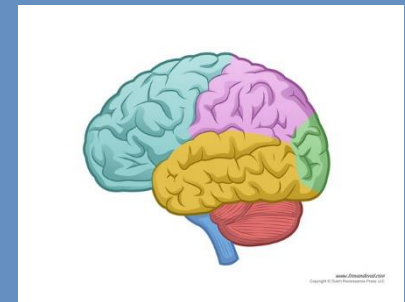
Issues and Debates



Memory



Psychological Approaches



Bio Psychology



What GCSE's do I need?

What GCSE results do you need?

In addition to the College entry requirements for a Level 3 course...

- Grade 5 in GCSE English
 - Grade 5 in GCSE Maths
 - Grade 4 in GCSE Biology OR GCSE Combined Science (at Higher or Foundation level)
-
- COME AND TALK TO ONE OF US AT COURSE CONFIRMATION if you are uncertain *after* you get your results





What is the difference between GCSE and A Level?

Difference from GCSE Psychology

- For many of you, A Level Psychology **will be a completely new subject** (you do not have to have done GCSE Psychology)
- Much more **depth** than GCSE Psychology
- You will need to be able to **evaluate** in much more detail
- You will need to **apply** knowledge to new situations
- There is a lot **more maths**



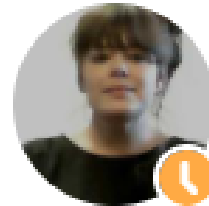


**Who will my teachers be
and where will I be
taught?**

Your Psychology Teachers



Fiona Yoward
Teacher of Psychology
STAFF



Beth Buxton
Teacher of Psychology
STAFF



Emily Bilsby

Your Psychology Classroom



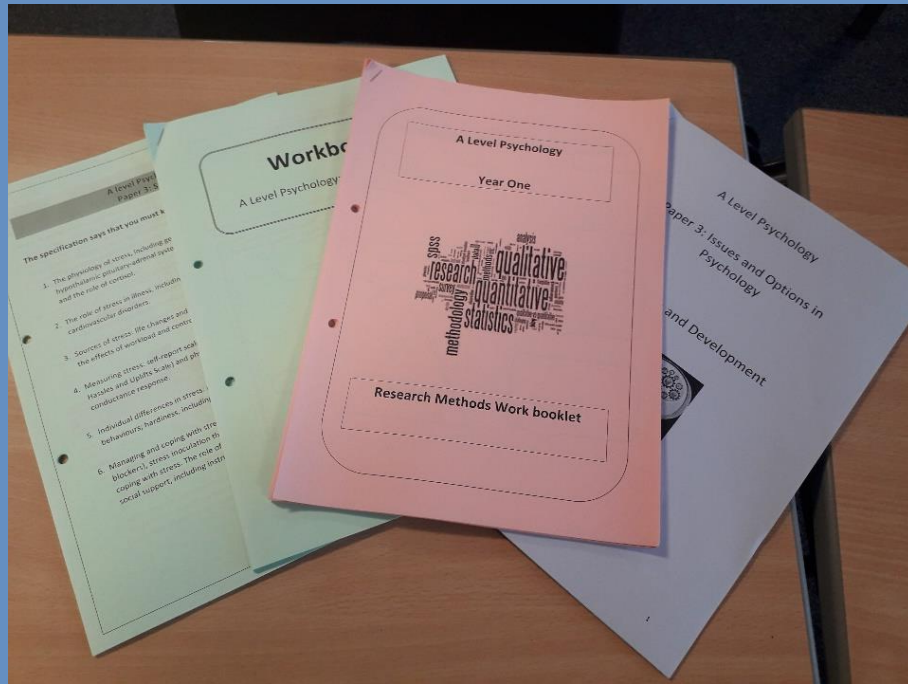
Here in the Psychology department at WSFC we have dedicated psychology rooms which house useful resources and interesting displays.





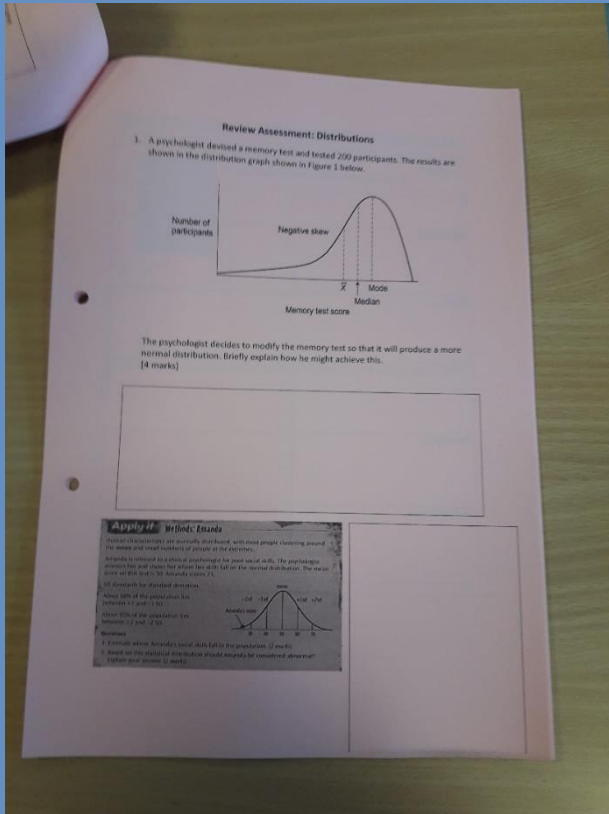
**What resources will I need
and what will I be provided
with?**

You will be provided with the most essential resources...



The Psychology teachers write booklets of notes that are designed precisely for the AQA specification. This means that you don't have to take notes.

They also design workbooks for each topic to help develop your skills



An example of a data analysis question

Read the item and answer the question that follows.

Two school inspectors are writing reports of their recent primary school observations. Mrs McLean writes, 'Students worked alone. They were given tasks and materials then had to solve problems by trial and error'.

Mrs Watt writes, 'Students worked in pairs of differing ability so they could help each other and talk through each stage. The teacher demonstrated and advised them until they could manage on their own.'

Discuss Piaget's and Vygotsky's views on the development of cognition. Refer to the inspectors' comments in your answer. [16 marks]

Description (6)	Application (4)	Evaluation (6)

A writing frame to help with essays

Evaluating Vygotsky's theory of Cognitive Development

Point	Explain	Link
S: One strength of Vygotsky's theory is that there is research evidence to support his claim that other people provide support and scaffolding when we are unsure what to do	For example	This is a strength because...
C: However, one criticism is that some of his concepts are poorly defined.	For example	This is a weakness because...
C: Another criticism is that his theory may be supported by flawed evidence		
C: Another criticism is that he is unclear about the exact role of social interaction in development	For example	This is a weakness because...
P: Nonetheless, Vygotsky's theory is responsible for some very important practical applications	For example	This is a strength because

An evaluation breakdown to help build up skills



Microsoft Teams

General Posts Files Class Notebook Assignments 3 more + Team Meet

1A1 Psychology A Level (Year 1 of 2) - 2020/21 (Managed)

STRESS [Individual differences in stress]... 1A1 Psychology A Level (Year 1 of 2) - 2020/21 (...)	STRESS [Managing and coping with stre... 1A1 Psychology A Level (Year 1 of 2) - 2020/21 (...)
STRESS [Measuring stress].doc 1A1 Psychology A Level (Year 1 of 2) - 2020/21 (...)	STRESS [Physiology of stress].doc 1A1 Psychology A Level (Year 1 of 2) - 2020/21 (...)
STRESS [Sources of stress].doc 1A1 Psychology A Level (Year 1 of 2) - 2020/21 (...)	STRESS [Stress of illness].doc 1A1 Psychology A Level (Year 1 of 2) - 2020/21 (...)

Reply

Today

Beth Buxton 13:43

PPT from Beth

Mirror Neuron Theory of Social Cognition

Good work yesterday folks! Please find attached the ppt. **Please note that the homework for next Fri is to learn Selman's stages of perspective taking, off by heart, for next week. That is the table on pages 36&7 of the notes (as well...**

See more

MNT2021.pptx 1A1 Psychology A Level (Year 1 of 2) - 2020/21 (Managed) > Ge...
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Reply

The Psychology teachers at WSFC are fully proficient at using Microsoft Teams to communicate remotely. All lesson resources are posted onto teams every week so that you can easily catch up if you were to miss a lesson.



**What sorts of things
do we do in lessons?**

What do we do in lessons?

- Learning lots about explanations for behaviour and research studies to support or challenge these
- Lots of exam question practice
- Some small group work
- Data analysis



**How will I be
assessed?**

Key assessments

- Your grade in Psychology is based on 3 exams at the end of 2 years (Summer 2023)
- In class you will be tested every 5-6 weeks
- There will be mocks throughout the 2 years
- You will have homework set every week
- You will also be given an independent study plan to help keep you on track outside of the classroom

Formal Assessment 1: Research Methods Year One Psychology

A researcher wanted to find out if recording different types of everyday experiences affects happiness. She obtained an opportunity sample of 40 students aged 16 and 17 years. She asked them to record in a diary particular events that occurred over a period of two weeks. The students were randomly allocated to one of two conditions.

Condition 1: students were asked to record pleasant events.

Condition 2: students were asked to record events that had upset them.

At the end of the two weeks, all the students were asked to rate how happy they felt on a scale of 1 to 20, where 1 means very unhappy and 20 means very happy.

1. Give one limitation of using an opportunity sample in psychological research. [1 mark]

2. Explain how the researcher could have randomly allocated the students to Condition 1 and Condition 2. [3 marks]

Types of Assessments

Only **one** answer per question is allowed.

For each answer completely fill in the circle alongside the appropriate answer.

CORRECT METHOD WRONG METHODS

If you want to change your answer you must cross out your original answer as shown.

If you wish to return to an answer previously crossed out, ring the answer you now wish as shown.

- 0 1** According to the biological approach, which of the following statements is **TRUE**.

Shade **one** circle only.

- A** Environment may influence the expression of the genotype.
- B** Genotype is just the expression of the environment.
- C** Outside influences cannot affect the expression of the genotype.
- D** Phenotype is only the expression of the genotype.

- 0 2** According to operant conditioning, which of the following statements is **TRUE**?

Shade **one** circle only.

- A** Negative reinforcement and positive reinforcement decrease the likelihood that a behaviour will be repeated.
- B** Negative reinforcement and positive reinforcement increase the likelihood that a behaviour will be repeated.
- C** Negative reinforcement and punishment decrease the likelihood that a behaviour will be repeated.
- D** Negative reinforcement and punishment increase the likelihood that a behaviour will be repeated.

Twenty primary school teachers were sent by their individual head teachers to attend a training course in classroom behaviour management run by educational psychologists at a local university. Before the training course, and again after training, the teachers were asked to say how confident they were in managing difficult classroom behaviour.

The researchers compared the before and after answers to see how many teachers rated their confidence as 'better', 'worse', or 'the same' as it had been at the start of the course.

The results are shown in **Table 1** below:

Table 1

	Confidence Better	Confidence Worse	Confidence Same
Number of teachers	16	2	2

- 1.

Which of A, B, C or D best describes this study? Shade **one** box only.

- A** laboratory experiment
- B** pilot experiment
- C** natural experiment
- D** controlled experiment

[1 mark]

2. What fraction of the teachers thought that their confidence was better after the course? Show your workings. [2 marks]

[1 mark]

Assessments will often include short answer style questions



There will be essays too

They may also be made up of Multiple Choice Questions

There may be data analysis question



**What support is
available to me?**

If you get stuck...



- Your teachers will build in time during the lessons to help you if you get stuck
- You will have a personal tutor who is NOT a subject teacher
- There are also 4 specialist psychology workshops that run each week. You can book a 1:1 appointment with your teachers to go over anything that you have been stuck on, or missed.



**What subjects go well
with psychology?**



- Psychology is such a diverse and broad subject that it complements many combinations of A levels.

- Some of our most popular combinations are...
- **Sociology**
- **Biology**
- **PE**
- **Criminology**
- **Maths**
- **Philosophy & Ethics**





**What can I do after
studying psychology?**

Different Fields of Psychology

Biopsychology

Social Psychology

Industrial-Organizational
Psychology

Educational Psychology

Sports Psychology

Clinical Psychology





the british
psychological society

Your journey into
psychology

Careers

Your journey into psychology

To find out more about careers in psychology

<https://careers.bps.org.uk/>



Tegan Arnold

Psychology - King Edward VI Five Ways School

I previously studied at King Edward VI Five Ways School and chose to come to Worcester Sixth Form College due to its wide variety of subject choices. Psychology has always interested me and especially now since many of the topics we study are so prevalent in today's society. Learning about issues such as depression and eating behaviours has been really interesting and it is also very useful to understand the causes, and how these issues can be treated, as it allows you to understand and help those around you. Psychology links very closely to my other subjects, Biology and Sociology, which helps me gain a wider understanding and look at human behaviour from different viewpoints. After College, I plan to study Psychology at university and hopefully go on to become an Educational Psychologist.



WORCESTER
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



**What do our current
students say about
Psychology?**

What our students say...

'It will require a lot of work outside of the classroom'

'It is really different from any subject that you study before'

'It requires a lot of commitment'

Think of psychology as a science A level rather than an essay subject

'There is a lot of maths but don't let that scare you'

'Lessons are fast paced, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing'

'There is a lot of learning...it is not about your own interpretation which I thought it would be'

'There is a lot of content...more than other subjects so be prepared'

Really nice teachers, the notebooks and workbooks and lay out of the lessons are really useful and make it easy to learn and remember information. My favourite lesson :)

I have really loved psychology throughout the year in literally every aspect

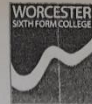




**What do I have to do
before I start?**

Summer work

Introduction to Psychology Task



Complete the task below and bring this sheet with you to your first Psychology lesson in September, ready to share and discuss with others. This work will be your first piece of assessed work and therefore should be presented neatly. You may have already completed this task if you have completed the **A Level Psychology bridging tasks booklet**.

Task

Go to the website: <https://digest.bps.org.uk/> (You can also download the Research Digest app.)

Choose **THREE** research studies from the website. These could be studies in the feed that you find particularly interesting, or you could use the 'search our archive' button to find research relating to some of the topics you will study next year (e.g. memory, attachment, conformity, obedience, phobias, OCD, depression).

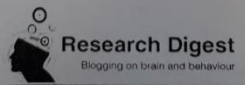
For each of the three studies that you have chosen, complete the questions on the other side of this sheet. Try to keep your answers to each of the questions brief – summarising information is a skill that you will need to develop once at College!

These questions will familiarise you with some of the terminology used on the A Level Psychology course:

1. Who conducted this research and/or what is the title of the study?
2. What is the aim of the study - what is it about?
3. Who are the participants - the individual or group of people used in the study?
4. What findings were obtained and/or what conclusions have been drawn?
5. Does this research have any practical applications - could the findings from the study be useful in any way? If so, how and for who?

*NOTE: The Research Digest web page includes a mixture of psychological research studies and other general articles about psychological topics. To complete this task below you will need to find examples of **psychological research**, that is, research that psychologists have conducted to investigate and analyse the experiences and behaviours of individuals or groups of people.*

If you have any questions about this work or anything else please don't hesitate to contact one of the Psychology Team: fiona.yoward@wsfc.ac.uk or beth.buxton@wsfc.ac.uk.



Question	Research Study 1	Research Study 2	Research Study 3
Researcher or title of study?			
Aim?			
Participants?			
Findings or Conclusions?			
Practical applications?			

Where to find the summer work

- You can download it from the meeting chat here
- Or access the bridging tasks using this link

<https://www.wsfc.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Psychology.pdf>

Any Questions?

