



# Psychology

## GCSE to A level

# Year 11 into 12 for 2025/26



# Year 12 A Level Psychology Bridging Work

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Welcome to A Level Psychology!

### Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to give you essential information and resources to support the beginning of your A Level in Psychology. This booklet will also help you to understand and develop the skills you will need.

To prepare you for your first lesson, please ensure you have a lever arch folder and file dividers ready to organise your notes.

### Expectations

- Bring folder and all notes every lesson
- Bring all equipment, such as pens, highlighters, rulers and a calculator
- 100% attendance and punctuality
- 5 hours a week extra study outside of class time for Psychology. Your lessons are merely a support to guide you through Psychology A Level, the hard work has to come outside of class too, to ensure for success.
- You can expect all work to be marked and returned within two weeks of you handing it in

Suggested textbooks for A level Psychology:

*The Complete Companions: AQA Psychology Year 1 and AS Student Book (Fourth Edition) (Complete Companion Psychology) Paperback– 12 Mar 2015: Mike Cardwell and Cara Flanagan*

*AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS - Student Book. Paperback– 23 Mar 2015: Cara Flanagan, Matt Jarvis & Dave Berry*

**Whichever textbook you decide to buy, please ensure that it is for the AQA A Level specification and it is for the new changes (new changes came about in 2015).**

### What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of human and animal behaviour. Psychologists are always trying to discover why people do the things they do, whether those things are normal or abnormal. Psychologists are also interested in differences between various groups such as males & females, cultural & subcultural (e.g. Welsh & English) groups, and so on. Sometimes we have to look at animal behaviour in order to get a better understanding of our own behaviour and to answer questions like 'how do we learn?' From a personal perspective, you should find the fundamental questions of the psychologist interesting:

- Why do I behave like this?
- Why do I feel like this?
- Why do I think like this?

As part of the psychology course, you will study the following topics;

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Research Methods
- Psychopathology
- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Relationships
- Aggression
- Stress

Students who have completed GCSE psychology will already have *SOME* knowledge of; social influence, memory and research methods. The rest of the topics are brand new for everyone. This means you will need to spend some time catching up on these three topics.

#### What is this Bridging work for?

This research based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for your A Level Psychology course.

Research and complete the tasks independently over the summer to get a head start and prepare for the key topics within A Level Psychology.

#### When is this Bridging work due?

Your bridging work will be collected in your **first psychology** lesson back after the summer holidays.

The work will be marked as either a Pass, Borderline, or Fail.

If the work is not completed to standard, you will sit a detention.

#### Where can I find the Bridging work if I lose mine?

Either on the school website or my psychology class teams channel.

## Year 11 into year 12 bridging work

Please go onto tutor2U and create an account

Please click on the link below and enrol **for free** to the **Transition to AQA A-Level Psychology** course.

[Transition to AQA A-Level Psychology Getting Started | tutor2u](#)

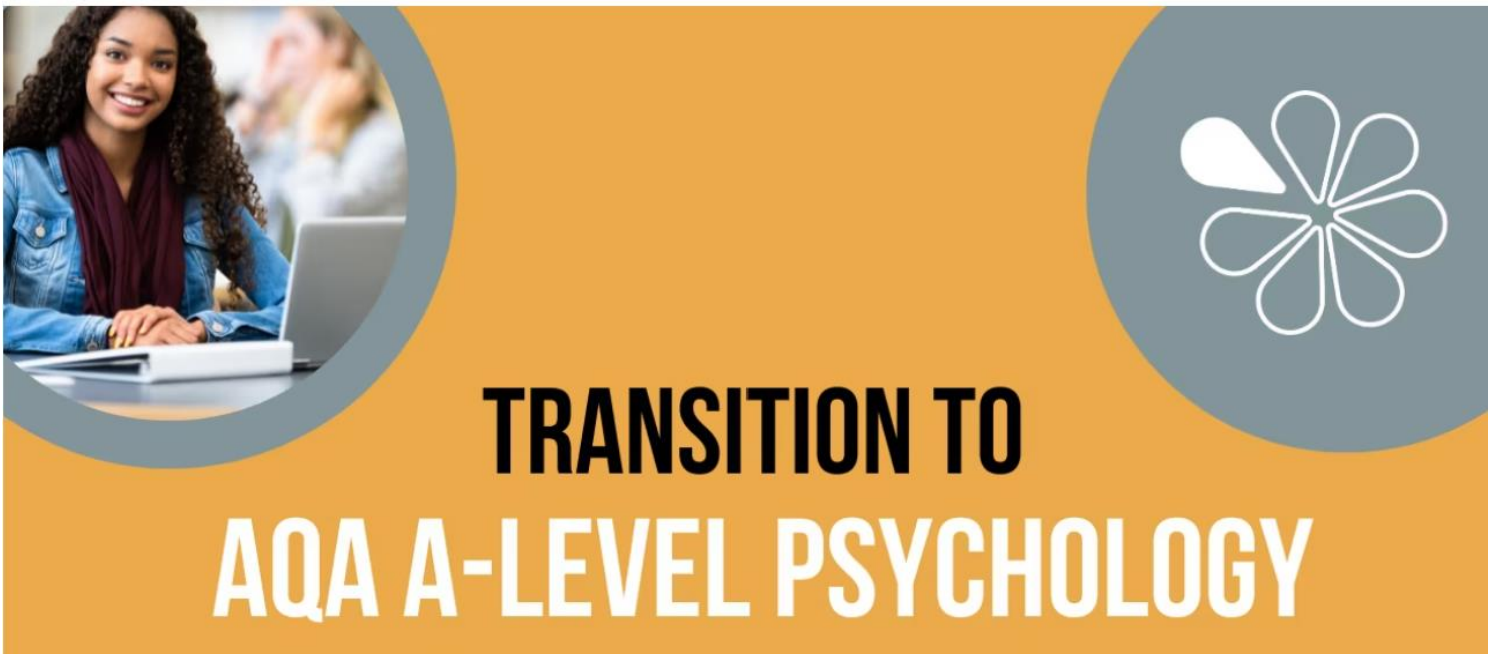
This is an introductory course for the AQA A-Level Psychology course, including key approaches and research methods.

This course is ideal to help prepare you for a successful start to the academic year.

The course comes with a range of self paced video tutorials, interactive activities, and a student worksheet.

Please complete all activities, and evidence this is in a word document.

This will need to be shown to your teacher in the first lesson of your psychology A level.



### Wider reading and resources

|  |  |
|--|--|
| The Man who mistook his Wife for a Hat by Oliver Saks. | This is a collection of case studies of patients with unique/interesting brain damage. Useful for the topics of Memory because it includes cases of amnesia and Biopsychology because it looks at functional recovery of the brain.                      |
| The Psychopathy Test by Jon Ronson                     | Jon Ronson is a journalist who investigates the nature of a psychopath. He questions the validity of testing them and suggests there may be many psychopaths in society who are functioning and non-criminal. Particularly in politics and business.     |
| Opening Skinner's Box by Lauren Slater                 | Brilliant short summaries of some of the most famous psychological studies. Some of which we study in our course.  |
| The Essential Difference by Simon Baron-Cohen          | All about his research into gender differences and how they might actually be rooted in biology after all. Also includes interesting and controversial links between the male brain and autism.  |
| Three Identical Strangers                              | A documentary based on Triplets who were separated at birth. Relates to the nature nurture debate.   |
| The Stanford prison experiment                         | A film depicting the famous prison study that we'll learn about in our first topic in social psychology.   |
| One flew over the cuckoo's nest                        | Film. Useful for psychopathology and definitions of abnormality.   |
| The Experiment   | A film depicting the famous psychologist Stanley Milgram that we'll learn about in our first topic in social psychology.   |
| 12 Angry Men   | An old film that will be great for our discussions into conformity.  |
| Beautiful mind   | Film. Useful for psychopathology topic.  |
| Zimbardo Ted Talk                                      | <a href="https://www.ted.com/talks/philip_zimbardo_the_psychology_of_evil?language=en">https://www.ted.com/talks/philip_zimbardo_the_psychology_of_evil?language=en</a> Great to get you thinking about "what is evil?" for our social psychology topic. |
| BBC4s "I hear voices"                                  | BBC Sounds – 'I hear voices' about a woman's experience of schizophrenia <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05q82d8">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05q82d8</a>   |
| BBC4s All in the mind series                           | All in the mind – the impact of psychological research on our lives <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03hvx74">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03hvx74</a>  |
| Future learn Online Course                             | <a href="https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/history-science-psychology">https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/history-science-psychology</a> Interesting articles and videos explaining the history and background of psychology.                         |