

Psychology A Level

Preparation work: Pre-course Reading, Research and Tasks

Pre-reading and research will help you to become more familiar with the topics you are going to study on your A Level Psychology course. If you complete the tasks below, they will also help you to become more confident when you start your course. Remember it is also a good idea to make sure you recap and consolidate your GCSE knowledge as well.

Specification :

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/specification-at-a-glance>

Task 1:

Produce a 1 side (A4) summary of at least 2 of the following topics that you will be studying as part of your course:

Research Methods: British Psychological Society code of conduct regarding Ethical issues in Research

<https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologists/standards-and-guidelines>

Social Influence: Studies into Conformity

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/conformity.html>

Memory: Eyewitness Testimony

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/misleading-information-in-eye-witness-testimony-ewt>

Psychopathology:

<https://www.verywellmind.com/an-overview-of-psychopathology-4178942>

Attachment: Outcomes of Deprivation in early childhood

<https://theconversation.com/childhood-deprivation-affects-brain-size-and-behaviour-129314>

Case Studies:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phineas_Gage

<https://www.brainfacts.org/in-the-lab/tools-and-techniques/2018/the-curious-case-of-patient-hm-082818>

<https://www.verywellmind.com/genie-the-story-of-the-wild-child-2795241>

Task 2:

Click on the above links and pick one or two that are of interest to you. Complete the following:

- 1) Summarise the key elements of the case
- 2) What have we learnt from these cases? What do they teach us about recovery from trauma?

Websites for Further Research and Reading:

Psychology has a great deal of practical use for society, some of which may be surprising to the general public. Click on the link for examples:

<http://psychology23.blogspot.com/2008/11/iv-practical-applications-of-psychology.html>

A wide variety of topics are studied within the scientific discipline of Psychology. Click the links below for examples of current research:

<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/releases>

https://www.boredpanda.com/major-psychological-findings-of-2018/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

Psychology is a Science which requires knowledge of a variety of bodily systems therefore incorporates a great deal of Biology. Click here for an example:

<https://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/neuroscience/crossingdivide>

Some of the latest developments within Psychology have occurred within the area of Cognitive Neuroscience: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive_neuroscience

Books to Read:

Course textbooks:

- **AQA Psychology for A level year 1 & AS** by Flanagan C., Berry D., Jarvis M., & Liddle R, (2015) Illuminate publishing, UK. ISBN: 9781908682406
- **AQA A – Level Psychology Book 1** by Lawton J.M. & Willard E. (2015) ISBN: 9781908682406

Books of Psychological interest:

- **The Lucifer Effect: How good people turn evil** by Philip Zimbardo (2007) Random House ISBN: 9781846046041037
- **Opening Skinner's box: Great Psychological Experiments of the twentieth century** by Lauren Slater (2004) Bloomsbury ISBN: 97807475658605
- **The man who mistook his wife for a hat** by Oliver Sacks (1986) Picador classic ISBN: 9781447275404
- **Sybil Exposed** by Debbie Nathan (2011) Free Press: New York ISBN: 9781439168288
- **The Psychopath Test** by Jon Ronson (2011) Picador ISBN: 9780330492263
- **Bad Science** by Ben Goldacre (2008) Harper Collins: Oxfordshire ISBN: 9780007284870
- **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman (2017) HarperCollinsPublishers : London ISBN: 9780008172114

Podcasts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbagFzcyNiM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB2Oegl6wvl>

Task 3:

Source one of the above books or listen to one of the podcasts. Write a summary of the key Psychological facts and main points you have learnt.



Films to Watch:

- **The Stanford Prison Experiment (2015)** - this is based on research by Professor Philip Zimbardo in 1971, a study we learn within Social Influence
- **Experimenter (2015)** - based on research by Stanley Milgram in 1961, another study that you need to learn
- **Room (2015)** - this links to Developmental Psychology and cases of recovery from adverse experience
- **Rainman (1988)** - based on the life of Kim Peek, a case of savant syndrome (Autism alongside other areas of exceptional ability)

Progression Opportunities

Why choose Psychology A Level:

Studying Psychology provides a breadth of transferable skills with some of the links above already indicating potential careers within Psychology.

Information on studying Psychology at university:

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects/psychology>

Some general information about career options:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/psychology>

Further guidance from the British Psychological Society: <https://careers.bps.org.uk>

For those of you wanting to pursue a career as a chartered Psychologist:

<https://www.bps.org.uk/public/become-psychologist/career-options-psychology>

We hope you enjoy completing these tasks and look forward to you joining the course.

