

Psychology Y11 into Y12 Bridging Pack

Psychology is a fascinating and popular subject and looks at the scientific study of the human mind, behaviour and experience. Believe it or not, psychology is all around us and you will gain an insight into this through studying a range of exciting topics. The study of psychology will be very new to most you. It will open new and exciting areas of exploration and different ways of thinking. To develop an understanding of the subject and some of the key ideas in psychology, I would like you to conduct some independent research into an area of human behaviour.

You will all have different skills, knowledge and interests. As your new teacher, I am interested in finding out about you, what motivates you and why you want to study Psychology. I am also looking to find out how confident you are in carrying out independent research, producing summaries of your findings and presenting and discussing your findings; important skills that you will build on throughout the next 2 years.

The course:

We will be studying the AQA Psychology course. This consists of the following modules:

Paper 1:

Memory
Social Influence
Attachment
Psychopathology

Paper 2:

Research Methods
Approaches
Biopsychology

Paper 3

Forensic Psychology
Cognition and Development
Eating Behaviour
Issues and Debates

Suggested equipment and resources:

- At least 3 folders with dividers
- Lined paper
- Pens
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Scientific calculator
- Highlighters
- Post-it notes

Suggested textbooks:

- A Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS - Student Book by Jarvis Matt, Berry Dave, Flanagan Cara, Liddle Rob
- AQA Psychology for A Level Year 2 - Student Book by Liddle Rob, Jarvis Matt, Berry Dave, Flanagan Cara
- The Complete Companions: AQA Psychology Year 1 and AS Student Book by Mike Cardwell, Cara Flanagan
- The Complete Companion for AQA Psychology A Level: Year 2 Student Book by Mike Cardwell, Cara Flanagan

Suggested films and documentaries:

- A beautiful mind
- One flew over the cuckoo's nest
- Stanford Prison Experiment
- 12 Angry Men

Suggested websites:

www.simplypsychology.org

www.tutor2u.net

<https://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/psychology>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology/teach/list-of-free-resources>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVbOR6M&index=1&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOPRKzVLY0jY-uHOH9KVU6>

<https://www.ted.com/topics/psychology>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/>

Task 1:

A key part of A level psychology is statistics. This means that you will need to have a good level of basic maths skills. In the first week, we will have a mini test to assess your basic knowledge and skills. In preparation for this, I would like you to review some of these basic skills. You do not (unless you want to) produce any revision material for this, but you will need to ensure you have a good understanding of the following:

- Mean, median and mode
- Range and standard deviation
- Bar charts, pie charts, histograms, scatter graphs and frequency tables
- Percentages, decimals, fractions and ratios
- Mathematical symbols and signs

Task 2:

Another underlying part of psychology is the different approaches. These are essentially different theories and ways of explaining human behaviour. I would like you to choose and research one of these approaches or general areas in psychology and produce a summary of your findings. You can present your findings in whichever way you like; handwritten paragraphs, a key fact handout, a detailed mind map, poster or information leaflet. You will all be presenting a short 5-minute presentation of these findings in the first lesson. Choose one of the following:

- Behaviourist approach
- Cognitive approach
- Biological approach
- Social approach
- Humanistic approach
- Psychodynamic approach
- Psychopathology
- Social influence
- Attachment
- Memory

Task 3:

Within psychology, there have been many famous and influential individuals who have been key figures in helping psychology to become so popular and in demand. We will study many of these over the next 2 years. I would like you to choose one of these famous individuals and create a brief profile of that individual and their research. In this profile, you will need to include information about the aim of the research, their method (how they carried out their research), their results/findings and their conclusions. Choose one of the following:

- Loftus and Palmer
- Milgram
- Zimbardo
- Asch
- Bandura
- Pavlov
- Bowlby
- Piaget
- Ainsworth and Bell
- Atkinson and Shiffrin

Task 4:

Some people argue that we are all the way we are because of our genetics; what we inherited from our parents. On the other hand, other people argue that we are the way we are because of our experiences in life; our upbringing, our friends and all the other things we do and people we meet along the way. For example, some people would explain why some people commit murder in relation to their upbringing – perhaps they were not taught right from wrong by their parents. The other side of the argument might suggest that they are an innately aggressive and violent person – perhaps they inherited a particular gene that makes them this way. To what extent do you agree with either (or both) of these viewpoints? Create a response.