

Transition Work – Psychology

As Psychology will be a new subject to almost all students, it is important to understand the subject matter, appreciate the way the discipline works and familiarise yourself with the topics you will be studying.

This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether Psychology is the right subject for you and prepare you for A Level study.

The following website provides a simple, yet concise description of what Psychology is (for information only, no notes needed): http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/mind/articles/psychology/what_is_psychology.shtml

The next sites goes into more detail regarding the development of Psychology as a separate discipline and explains the links to both Philosophy and Biology. Familiarise yourself with the differing schools of thought or perspectives and the differing specialty areas of Psychology in today's society (for information only, no notes needed):

<https://www.verywellmind.com/psychology-4014660> and <https://www.york.ac.uk/psychology/prospective/what> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwQvmuk5K1Q> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-P1BEk6hhE>

A major part of Psychology is research. Research can take many forms from laboratory experiments to interviews. Understanding the basis of scientific enquiry is essential in Psychology, as is the statistical analysis of research and ethical considerations. The following clip introduces some of these aspects and you need to ensure you understand the concepts and terminology in this clip, so make any notes you feel you need:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFV71QPvX2I&index=2&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOPRkzVLY0jJY-uHOH9KVU6>

(The Psychology Crash Course videos are excellent – many relate to topics you will cover during the course, so it would be advisable to watch a selection to give you a greater understanding of the subject)

There is no right answer in Psychology, but much research, theory and debate. Explanations of human behaviour generally relate to the four different approaches that you will study in Year 1 – Social, Cognitive, Learning (Behaviourism) and Biological, so familiarise yourself with these differing perspectives. Year 2 focuses on applying your knowledge to Clinical and Criminological Psychology and full details of the course, including sample assessment material are on the Pearson website below – take some time to read the various documents, including:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Psychology/2015/teaching-and-learning-materials/Psychology_Student_Guide_-_Presentation.pdf

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Psychology/2015/teaching-and-learning-materials/GCE_Psychology_Student_Guide.pdf

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/psychology-2015.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>

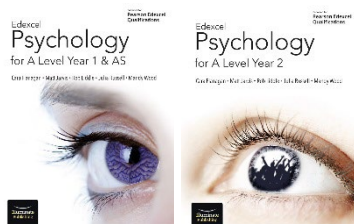
For information on post-18 options, visit the British Psychological Society: <https://www.bps.org.uk>

A large part of the course will consist of understanding and evaluating concepts, theories and aspects of research. It is important to question the reliability and validity of theory and research. Conduct your own independent research and familiarise yourself with the concepts of generalisability, reliability, validity, objectivity, subjectivity and credibility – make notes defining each of the six terms and consider how they are used within Psychology.

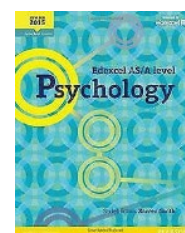
Data collected during research is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Analysing research requires mathematical data analysis, to include measures of central tendency, percentages, ratios, probability, frequency tables, bar charts, histograms and scatter graphs. Consider your scientific understanding of research and experimentation, to include aims, variables (independent and dependent) and hypotheses (null, directional/one-tailed and non-directional/two-tailed). Revise your knowledge of these concepts from your GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Science courses and conduct additional research to ensure you can define and apply these concepts.

There are currently two textbooks for the Edexcel specification and I would advise purchasing at least one of them (consider Amazon / eBay for pre-owned bargains)

Illuminate have separate Yr1 and Yr2 textbooks



Pearson have one textbook for the whole course



The more independent research you conduct, the more informed you will become. This will ensure your chosen programme of study is appropriate to your personal interests and abilities.

Should you have any questions or want additional information, please contact me on kate.betts@tas.318education.co.uk
Kate Betts, Subject Leader for Psychology

A Level Psychology: Wider reading list

The Little Book of Psychology: An Introduction to the Key Psychologists and Theories You Need to Know

Emily Ralls, Caroline Riggs

Psych 101: Psychology facts, basics, statistics, tests, and more!

Paul Kleinman

Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century Paperback

Lauren Slater

Psychology 101: The 101 Ideas, Concepts and Theories that Have Shaped Our World

Adrian Furnham

Psych Experiments: From Pavlov's dogs to Rorschach's inkblots, put psychology's most fascinating studies to the test

Michael A Britt

Aiming for an A in A-level Psychology

Jean-Marc Lawton

The Student's Guide to Studying Psychology

Thomas M. Heffernan

A Degree in a Book: Psychology: Everything You Need to Know to Master the Subject – in One Book!

Dr Alan Porter

Intro to Psychology: Mini Textbook

RK Publishing

The Lucifer Effect: How Good People Turn Evil

Philip Zimbardo

The Brain: The Story of You

David Eagleman