



Social Sciences Faculty



# Psychology Induction



# WELCOME TO A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Welcome to your A-Level/AS-Level Psychology course!

You have chosen a very popular subject to study. The Psychology staff and students are part of the Social Sciences Faculty, which is located in the 'Sauna' (wooden clad building in between middle block and north block).

Mr Mears is the Head of the Social Sciences Faculty ([mearss@wh-at.net](mailto:mearss@wh-at.net))

Mrs Edmunds is Teacher in charge of Psychology ([edmundsk@wh-at.net](mailto:edmundsk@wh-at.net))

Mrs Matthews is a Teacher of Psychology ([matthewsc@wh-at.net](mailto:matthewsc@wh-at.net))

Miss Roberts is a Teacher of Psychology ([robertst@wh-at.net](mailto:robertst@wh-at.net))

We are also all part of the sixth form tutor team.

Psychology is mostly taught in two classrooms, M31 and M32, and staff will usually be in one of these rooms or in the Social Sciences office (at the entrance to the sauna) if you need to find us.

You will have two teachers of Psychology in each year.

# AIMS AND EXPECTATIONS

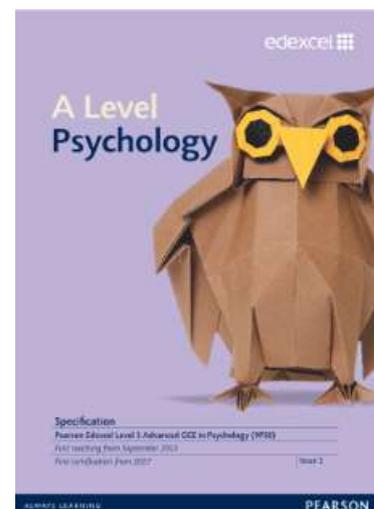
The course we are following is Edexcel A-level (or AS-level) Psychology.

The aims and objectives of are to enable students to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

**TASK:** You can find information such as the syllabus specification and course materials for the A-level and AS-level at the following website:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/psychology-2015.html>



## WHS Psychology Department Expects....

As experienced teachers we know what will help you to succeed in your course and what will cause you to fail.

As part of the course requirements, students are therefore expected to:

1. Arrive to lessons **on time** and with the necessary **equipment** for the lesson (*folder, textbook, pens, paper* etc)
2. Undertake **all tasks set** by the classroom teacher **sensibly** and **responsibly**, e.g. note-making, discussion, exam questions.
3. Complete **homework** tasks by the deadline set – homework tasks are an essential part of your completion of the course, and you will not complete the course without the knowledge and skills gained in homework tasks. This includes essential information over and above that learned in class.
4. **Be quiet** and **listen** while the teacher is talking to the class and **sit** where you are told.
5. Eat/drink outside of lesson time, and have phones put away on silent or switched off.
6. At all times, behave **respectfully** to all staff and other students.

We will aim to provide:

- Interesting and engaging lessons, taught by experienced and motivated staff
- A comprehensive study of all the necessary syllabus material
- Regular assessment based on exam board requirements
- Detailed feedback to enable you to improve and progress.

**This will ensure you have the greatest chance of success in and enjoyment of your studies.**

# The Structure of the Course

## Overview:

In **Year 12**, you will study 4 topics:

1. **Social Psychology:** e.g. obedience, prejudice, questionnaires, interviews
2. **Cognitive Psychology:** e.g. multi-store model or memory, working memory model, experiments
3. **Biological Psychology:** e.g. the central nervous system, explanations of aggression, correlational research
4. **Learning Theories:** e.g. classical and operant conditioning, social learning theory, phobias, observations, animal research

If you are following the **full** A-level course you will also study area of **Issues & Debates**, such as:

Ethics, Practical Issues in Research, Reductionism, Is Psychology a Science, Issues of Social Control, Issues of Culture, the Nature-Nurture Debate (& others)

In **Year 13**, students following the full A-Level course will study 3 additional topics: (**only ONE from 6, 7 OR 8**)

5. **Clinical Psychology:** issues of mental health, schizophrenia, diagnosis, treatment, cause
6. **Criminal Psychology:** explanations of crime, treatments for offenders, eye-witness testimony, jury decision making
7. **Child Psychology:** attachment, deprivation, privation, autism
8. **Health Psychology:** causes and treatments for drug addiction, use of animal research
9. **Psychological Skills:** research methods, review of studies, issues & debates

## EXAMS AND ASSESSMENT

**A LEVEL:** (exams end of year 13)

**Paper 1** (*Social, Cognitive, Biological & Learning*): 2 hrs - 35% of A-level

**Paper 2** (*Clinical & Option Topic*) 2 hrs - 35% of A-level

**Paper 3** (*Psychological Skills, Studies, Issues & Debates*) 2 hrs - 30% of A-level

All papers include short and extended writing answers (mini-essay style).

If you have an AS-level in Psychology, it will be judged as 40% of a full A-level by UCAS.

**TASK:** Go to the exam board Psychology website to find course materials such as Sample Assessment materials to see what the exams will look like.



## **RESOURCES**

In order to complete the course you will need the following equipment and resources:



### ESSENTIAL:

- Folder & dividers
- Lined & plain paper
- Pens/pencils/highlighters

### DESIREABLE:

You may have access to some of these books in class, but it is a good idea if you buy your own copy to use as and when you want to.

A copy of:

- Edexcel Psychology for A-Level Book 1 (Christine Brain)  
ISBN: 9781471835384 (core textbook)
- Edexcel AS/A Level Psychology Student Book (Pearson)  
ISBN: 9781447982463 (additional core textbook)
- Edexcel Psychology Student Guide 1: Social Psychology and Cognitive Psychology (Christine Brain) ISBN: 9781471843426 (revision book)
- Edexcel Psychology Student Guide 2: Biological Psychology and Learning Theories (Christine Brain) ISBN: 9781471843662 (revision book)
- Edexcel Psychology for A-Level Book 2 (Christine Brain)  
ISBN: 9781471835452 (Year 13 core textbook)
- Psychology: The Science of Mind & Behaviour 7<sup>th</sup> Ed (Gross) ISBN:  
9781471829734 (*extension resource for highest ability*)

## USEFUL WEBSITES

**Task:** Spend some time looking at these websites that may be relevant at any time during the course.

1. Edexcel (Exam Board website):  
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>
2. British Psychological Society: <http://www.bps.org.uk/>
3. Encyclopaedia of Psychology: <http://www.psychology.org/links>
4. About Education - Psychology:  
<http://psychology.about.com/od/psychology101/tp/facts-about-psychology.htm>

## **INDEPENDENT LEARNING**

No, this is not simply Homework! This is extra reading, research, revision and extension work that you should be completing in addition to specific homework tasks set by your teacher. It can include:

- Reading the chapter/section ahead in the textbook
- Researching your next study in detail (ask your teacher)
- Read a copy/section of 'The Psychologist' (ask your teacher for copies)
- Keep a glossary of subject specific words and add to it each week
- Complete practice activities and exam style questions from textbooks/question banks.
- Watch Psychology related t.v. programmes and TED TALKS on You-Tube.
- Keep a scrapbook of Psychology related news articles from newspapers and internet news websites.

# HOMEWORK

As a general rule, you should expect to receive homework from each teacher each week. So you should have at least two pieces of Psychology homework per week, although this may be more.

It is essential that homework tasks are completed **in detail** and **on time**, as homework and self-study is an essential part of the time we have available to complete the course, and we cannot cover the course content without it.

Typical homework tasks will include:

- Reading and research
- Creating mind maps to describe and evaluate psychological studies
- Completing worksheets
- Preparing handouts/presentations for class
- Answering exam questions
- Preparing for timed exam questions/assessments in class
- Revision
- Collecting data and writing up practical reports

You must start homework tasks well before they are due for completion, so that you can ask for help when needed, but do this before the lesson it is due in.

Come and see your teacher in school or email them to ask for help – they would much rather spend time helping you than dealing with late homework (which is not an option)!

# **SUMMER HOLIDAY & BEGINNING OF TERM TASKS**

In order to make the best possible start to the course, you should complete some of the tasks below before the course begins and in the first couple of weeks of term.

***Make notes for each task, explaining what you have found out and keep a record/diary log recording each task you do.***

You will be asked about this in class!!

1. Go to the 'Useful Websites' section of this booklet and explore the websites there. Record interesting information you find out from each.
2. Buy a folder, dividers, lined & plain paper, pens, pencils & highlighters so that you are equipped for lessons.
3. Order a textbook/ resource to aid your learning (or wait and ask a teacher's advice)
4. Go and find out how to log on to the school IT system. Find the Metro Central School Internal Site (ask IT if necessary). Go to the Social Sciences page, and then to the Psychology page and explore the resources there.
5. Come to a Psychology classroom and ask to borrow an AS level textbook – using that book create a glossary of key words that are likely to be used in Social and Cognitive Psychology.
6. Google: TED TALK The Lucifer Effect – Watch Philip Zimbardo speak about the reasons why good people do bad things.
7. Either using the internet or by asking a teacher for a textbook, create a list of arguments that illustrate whether Eyewitnesses to criminal events are reliable or not. In other words, what makes a good eye witness? What factors affect the reliability of eyewitness testimony?
8. Create a scrapbook of Psychology related news articles, either using newspapers, journal articles, or articles from news websites. You could divide your scrapbook up in to sections, e.g. topics 1-4 and extension/other material.

## **LEARNING LOG**

Record any activities/tasks you complete from this booklet here. Bring this and any work you do on these tasks with you to lessons in your folder.

