

YEAR 1 OF A LEVEL**Subject content – ALL COMPULSORY**

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

YEAR 2 OF A LEVEL**Compulsory content- Issues and debates in psychology****CHOICE CONTENT:****Option one**

- Relationships / Gender / **Cognition and development**

Option two

- **Schizophrenia** / Eating behaviour / Stress

Option three

- Aggression / **Forensic psychology** / Addiction

There are no exams at AS.

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

The 3 papers are called:

- 1) **Introductory topics in Psychology – this is content from year 12 only**
- 2) **Psychology in context – this is content from year 12 and 13**
- 3) **Issues and options in psychology – this is content from year 13 only**

What will I study?

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Paper 1 topics:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper 2 topics:

- Approaches
- Research Methods
- Biopsychology

Paper 3 topics:


- Issues and debates
- Cognition and Development
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

Summer Task

YEAR 1 OF A LEVEL

Subject content – ALL COMPULSORY


- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

 Summer Gap Task
AQA A Level Psychology

Task 1- Preparation for first unit
One of the first units you will study is approaches. These approaches are different ways of explaining human behaviours. Some of these are listed below: your task is to research the fundamental principles of each approach. You can use the internet and YouTube videos to do this. You should find out: what does this word mean? How might it explain human behaviour? Identify one key researcher from this area – and why are they famous?


- The Behaviourist Approach
- The Social Learning Theory Approach
- The Cognitive Approach
- The Biological Approach
- Optional extension (+1 challenge): The Psychodynamic Approach & Humanistic Approach

Approaches in Psychology



Task 2- Reading Task
Throughout your Psychology A Level you will be required to read around the topic area regarding key studies, researchers, or disorders. One key study you will look at in the memory section is research conducted by Loftus and Palmer.

Open the link below. This will take you to the journal article which outlined Loftus and Palmer's study. Read the article and complete the information sheet below. This process will support your summarising skills which is crucial for research tasks within Psychology.



<https://webfiles.uci.edu/eloftus/LoftusPalmer74.pdf>

<u>List the keywords/concepts.</u>	<u>What does the article tell us? Jot down the key ideas and what they found. This can be in note form.</u>
<u>Summary of the article – what are the key things you have learnt about Loftus and Palmer?</u>	

Task 3- Revision Techniques
Research in Psychology tells us a lot about the most effective ways to revise information. **It is important to know NOW that revision is part of your ongoing learning and not something you do just before you start your exams.** Psychologists have shown that regular **retrieval practice** or testing yourself regularly helps retain information in your mind. As you move through your A level courses and are taught large amounts of information, you need to be regularly testing yourself on learnt material **in order to** strengthen and retain the knowledge in your mind. If you do not do this, information in your long-term memory quickly decays and then you **have to** work hard to put the information back into your mind. Revision cards can be an effective method for doing this **as long as** you use them properly.



Your task is to create some revision cards for the material you have just covered. You should aim to produce revision cards on each of the approaches (from task 1) and the key ideas from Loftus and Palmer's research (task 2). You can then use these revision cards in preparation for your first test in Psychology within your first 2 weeks at CNS.

Guidelines for using revision cards effectively:

- 1) Make the cards as you are learning, either lesson by lesson or week by week. Often students make these when they start revising for exams and then so many to make, the task feels overwhelming
- 2) Do not put too much information on the card. An effective revision card contains a concise summary of information that can be used for quickly testing yourself on knowledge.



- 3) Don't just focus on key words. Definitions of key words in Psychology is important but you need more detailed knowledge to answer exam questions effectively. Include key words but also questions that require recall of more detailed knowledge. Try to breakdown your notes into a series of questions and answers, each of which can be added to a revision card.
- 4) Once you have made revision cards, the most important thing is to **use these regularly**. A **really useful** system to use involves having different pouches or boxes for these cards. Box one contains all the cards when you have first made the cards. When you test yourself on box one, any that you get right get put into box two and the rest remain in box one. You should re-test yourself on box two about a week later and any you get right again move to box three and any you don't get right go back to box one. Finally, you should test yourself on box 3 every 3 weeks and move any that you still get right to box 4 which will contain cards that you only need to test yourself on about every 6 weeks (once a school term). Any that you get wrong from any box go back to box one.

- Each task is designed to introduce you to the skills we will be using throughout the course.
- You will be tested on this information in your first 2 weeks at CNS.
- 'NEED TO DO' V 'NICE TO DO'

Task 1

Need to do

- This follows on from the induction lesson.
- How can we explain behaviour?
- Tutor2u
- YouTube
- Simply Psychology



Summer Gap Task
AQA A Level Psychology

Task 1- Preparation for first unit

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You should find out: what does this word mean? How might it explain human behaviour? Identify one key researcher from this area – and why are they famous?

- The Behaviourist Approach
- The Social Learning Theory Approach
- The Cognitive Approach
- The Biological Approach
- Optional extension (+1 challenge): The Psychodynamic Approach & Humanistic Approach

Paper 2 topics:

- Approaches
- Research Methods
- Biopsychology



Task 2- Need to do

Task 2- Reading Task

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Paper 1 topics:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

List the keywords/concepts.

What does the article tell us? Jot down the key ideas and what they found. This can be in note form.

Summary of the article – what are the key things you have learnt about Loftus and Palmer?

Task 3- Nice to do

- Your task is to create some revision cards for the material you have just covered. You should aim to produce revision cards on each of the approaches (from task 1) and the key ideas from Loftus and Palmer's research (task 2). You can then use these revision cards in preparation for your first test in Psychology within your first 2 weeks at CNS.



You should find out: what does this word mean? How might it explain human behaviour? Identify one key researcher from this area – and why are they famous?



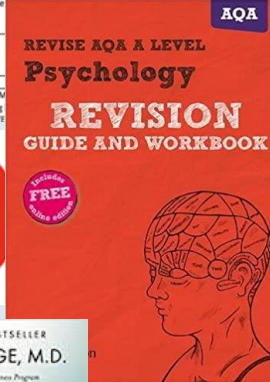
Wider reading

Exam board accredited textbooks:

- AQA Psychology for A level year 1 and AS. Cara Flanagan, Dave Berry, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle. Illuminate Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-9086-8240-6
- Psychology A Level Year 1 and AS. The Complete Companion Student Book. Mike Cardwell and Cara Flanagan. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-833864-2
- Revise aqa a level psychology revision guide and workbook

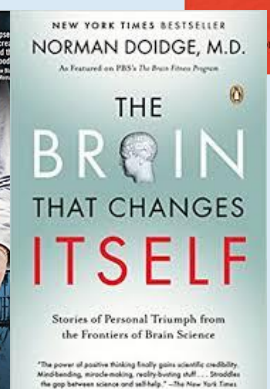
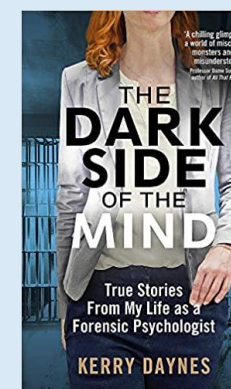


	Watch	Listen
ology	Child of Our Time - BBC Documentary	The Psychology Podcast
en	Secret Life of 4, 5 and 6 year olds - Channel 4 Documentary	All in the Mind Podcast - https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b005m053/episodes/guide
el	Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds - Channel 4 Documentary	PsychCouch Podcast
arts	Inception (movie)	Mind Changers - Radio 4
sh	The Parkinson's Drug Trial: A miracle cure? BBC Documentary	
Know:	The Experimenter (movie)	
n	A Beginner's Guide to Being Mental: An A-Z - Natasha Devon	Why do people join Cults? Jania Lalich (TED Talk)
	Born Liars - Ian Leslie	Crash Course (YouTube)



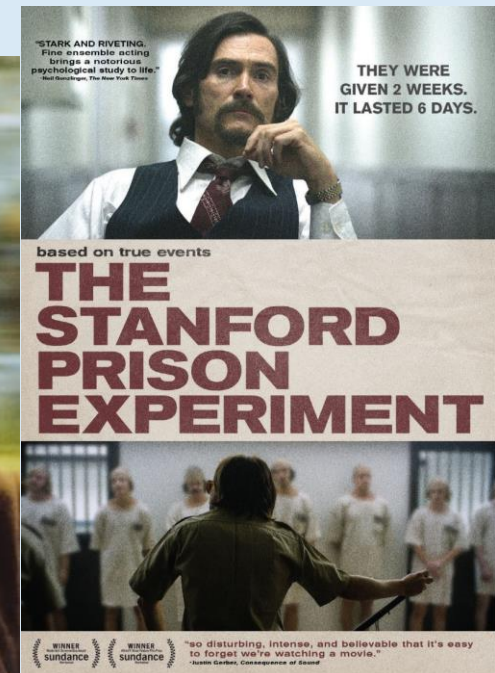
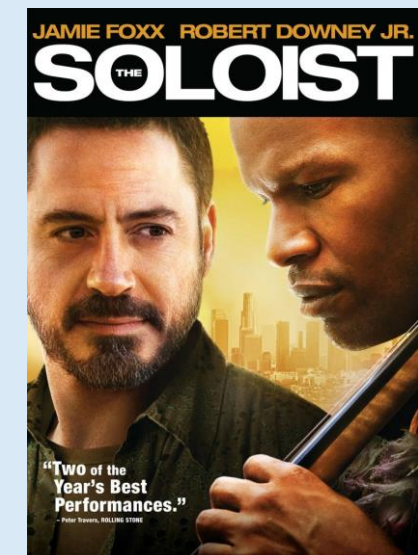
Recommended Reading/ websites and films:

- The brain that changes itself- Norman Doidge (1997).
- The Dark Side of the Mind- Kerry Daynes
- One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest- Film
- The British Psychological Society- www.bps.org.uk
- Tutor2u- www.tutor2u.net/psychology
- A level Psychology website- www.psychology4a.com
- TED talks- www.ted.com- search for psychology



Wider Watching

- The Stanford Prison Experiment
- 12 Angry Men
- Stephen Fry: The Secret Life of a Manic depressive (documentary)
- 3 Identical Strangers – Channel 4 (documentary)
- Mindhunter (Netflix)



Psychology Documentary/Film Review:

When you watch/listen to a TED Talk, or other Psychology-related documentary/film/podcast etc, use this short form to organise your ideas.

House points will be awarded for each documentary form filled in.

<i>Name of documentary:</i>	
<i>Brief synopsis:</i>	
<i>How does this documentary relate to the Psychology course?</i>	
<i>What Issues & Debates are raised in/by this documentary?</i>	
<i>Is it credible or biased? Why?</i>	
<i>How might you apply research methods knowledge to evaluate the issues (e.g. small sample size etc.)?</i>	

Useful links and websites

- <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>
- <https://www.simplypsychology.org/#gsc.tab=0>
- <https://psychboost.com/a-level/>
- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>
- <https://www.bps.org.uk/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOPRKzVLY0jJY-uHOH9KVU6>