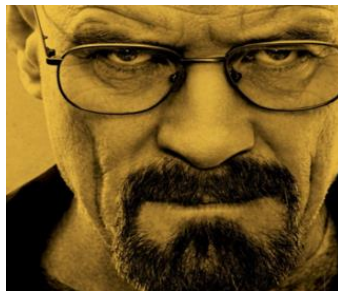




A-Level Psychology

“Some people are afraid of what they might find if they try to analyse themselves too much, but you have to crawl into your wounds to discover where your fears are. Once the bleeding starts, the cleansing can begin.”



Year 12 student June 2020:

“I had no way of knowing the impact of studying psychology would have on my ability to problem solve and understand myself and those around me better.”

Year 12 student June 2021:

“The study of mind and behaviour is one that allows you to look at behaviour, but more importantly, help you to understand and add meaning to it.”

Year 13 student June 2019:

“Studying psychology has been a journey. It is difficult but hugely rewarding in that the content is applied fully to real life. This makes the subject so interesting.”

Year 13 student June 2021:

“Studying psychology has changed me. It has helped me to evolve as a student and as a person too. That makes the subject special.”

Welcome to Psychology!

You have chosen to study A-level psychology at Lady Lumley's Sixth Form.

In psychology we cover lots of new and interesting topic areas which will interest the majority of students.

You will be studying AQA Psychology. For year 1 you will study a range of topics including:

- Paper 1:
 - Social influence
 - Memory
 - Attachment
 - Psychopathology
- Paper 2:
 - Approaches
 - Research methods

In September we will be starting with social influence to include research methods, followed by memory and attachment.

A level psychology is a new subject for the vast majority of students so it is important that all students have a clear understanding about the nature of psychology and what is required for the course. Psychology is a science and carries with it the rigour of the natural sciences.

Psychology is a subject that requires skills from all of the core subjects: English, mathematics and science. Students are required to write coherent and well planned essays; interpret data and conduct mathematical tests; to know and understand some basic anatomy. Please acknowledge that psychology is a tough, academic subject that will ask a lot of you. 50% of all the work needed will take place outside of lessons so prepare for independence. Psychology requires full commitment, passion and endurance. However, you will gain so much from studying the subject and it will help complement your other A level subjects.

Within this pack I have included a range of tasks for you to complete in order to prepare you for September. If, at any point, you are struggling and need support please feel free to email me: cdawson@ladylumleys.net

It is imperative that these tasks are complete ready for our first lesson together.

I look forward to seeing you in September.



Mr C Dawson (Psychology department)

Tasks:

Task 1: Your personality.

<https://www.16personalities.com/>

Take the test and summarise your results on 1 page of A4. For example, I am a “Mediator” which suggests that I am an introvert and gain energy from time on my own. I am a dreamer.

Do you agree with the results? Are the results accurate of you?

What can the results tell me about you?

***Write a brief overview of your results stating what personality type you are, what it represents and how others can work with you based on your personality type.**

Task 2: Psychological Approaches

Approaches are specific areas of psychology that attempt to explain behaviour. They include theories and specific psychologists who investigate the mind and behaviour from their associated approaches.

- a) Note down the key points of each approach in each box.
- b) What image could you use to represent each of the approaches? Include this in each box.
- c) Identify one word or statement that can summarise each approach.
- d) Identify the key differences between each approach.

Biological approach

Cognitive approach

Learning approach:
Behavioural approach

Learning approach- Social
learning theory

Task 3: Individual Research.

As psychology is a new subject it is important that you understand what the subject is.

- What is psychology?
- What do psychologists do and what can they offer us?
- Name one famous psychologist and explain why they are famous.
- What jobs can psychology lead you to?
- Why do you want to study psychology?

This is a useful place to start:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/mind/articles/psychology/what_is_psychology.shtml

Task 4:

We will be starting **social influence** in September and one of the biggest challenges will be learning, understanding, applying, evaluating and recalling key psychology studies in detail.

For each key study you will need to know:

***Aim (what are they trying to find out?)**

***Procedure (How did they go about finding out? method/sample/tasks...)**

***Results/findings**

***Conclusions**

Evaluation

I would like you to research and formulate a written overview of each of the following key studies to include aim, procedure, results and conclusion **only**:

Asch's research on conformity 1951	Zimbardo's Stanford prison experiment on conformity to social roles	Milgram's study on obedience
Aim:	Aim:	Aim:
Procedure:	Procedure:	Procedure:
Results/findings:	Results/findings:	Results/findings:
Conclusions:	Conclusions:	Conclusions:

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Links:

- The Stanford Prison Experiment (Unit 1)
<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/jun/15/fact-based-thriller-the-stanford-prison-experiment-unshackles-trailer>
- Can a questionnaire tell if you're a psychopath?
<http://www.theguardian.com/science/head-quarters/2015/jun/10/can-an-online-quiz-spot-a-psychopath>

A level revision website for research

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html>

<https://studyrocket.co.uk/revision/a-level-psychology-aga>

<http://www.psychology4a.com/>

Film/TV

Films that would be beneficial watching prior to the course starting in September:

- *The experiment (starring Adrien Brody)
- *The wave (German with subtitles)
- *The Stanford prison experiment (starring Ezra Miller)
- *Good will Hunting
- *Babies (Netflix)
- *Normal people (BBC iPlayer)
- *Stacey Dooley- inside the psych ward (BBC iPlayer)

TV- Any documentaries on TV or via youtube that have a focus on the mind and behaviour will help you prepare for the course.

TED talks on youtube are also very informative:

Speakers that would benefit include:

- *Susan Cain (*personality*)
- *Elizabeth Loftus (*eyewitness testimony*)
- *Philip Zimbardo (*Lucifer effect- good people doing bad things*)

Podcasts:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008cy1j/episodes/player>

Thank you

cdawson@ladylumleys.net

You will need to bring the following to your first psychology lesson:

- Leaver arch folder
- Dividers –
- Normal stationary: pens, pencil, ruler, highlighters etc.
- Lined paper
- Plastic wallets.