

Psychology A Level Year 12

A good psychology student blends scientific curiosity with deep empathy. They combine critical thinking and objective research skills with strong communication, tolerance, and ethical judgment, successfully applying psychological concepts to real-world situations. The traits and skills that define an exceptional psychology student include:

Scientific & Analytical Mindset Critical Thinking: They evaluate theories and data objectively rather than simply accepting information at face value

Data Literacy: They are comfortable—or at least willing to engage—with statistics and experimental design, which are the backbone of psychological research.

Inquisitiveness: They possess an innate desire to understand the "why" and "how" behind human behaviour and cognitive processes.

Empathetic Understanding: They can step into other people's shoes, offering acceptance and support without judgment.

Active Listening: They know that effective communication requires listening and absorbing information carefully before responding.

Tolerance and Inclusivity: They respect diverse viewpoints and cultural differences, consciously avoiding bias.

Summary of course content

The Psychology A Level syllabus is split into three examination papers:

Paper 1

Compulsory content:

- 1 Social influence
- 2 Memory
- 3 Attachment
- 4 Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

Paper 2

Compulsory content:

- 5 Approaches in Psychology
- 6 Biopsychology
- 7 Research methods

Paper 3

8 Issues and debates in Psychology

Optional

Option 1

9 Relationships

10 Gender

11 Cognition and development

Option 2

12 Schizophrenia

13 Eating behaviour

14 Stress

Option 3

15 Aggression

16 Forensic Psychology

17 Addiction

You can find the AQA specification here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/a-level/psychology-7182/specification>

Weekly:	• Completion of set work as outlined in the grid below. Read one lesson ahead on Teams.
Fortnightly:	• Review of recent lessons, learning key terminology, producing revision resources such as cards and mind maps; completion of additional reading from web sites.
Half termly:	• Revision: Review knowledge quizzes. Review topics and produce revision resources, e.g., flashcards, mind maps, posters, etc. Complete planning of past exam paper answers.

In addition to those provided for specific tasks by your teacher, resources include:

TEAMS: reading list; knowledge organisers; lesson PowerPoints and reference materials; end of unit summaries.

Massolit: <https://massolit.io/>

Recommended sites for independent research – see separate list.

Independent Learning Schedule – two hours directed by each of your teachers (subject to change):

Week beginning	Teacher 1	Teacher 2
7 th September	Enrolment week	Knowledge Organiser:
14	Learn specialist words from knowledge organiser on Social Influence Complete notes on Asch APFC	Topic: Approaches in Psychology Define the term 'approaches' 'Behaviourism'
21	Paper 1 complete question on Asch's procedures.	Topic: Social Learning Theory
28	Guided research task: Informational and Normative Social Influence	Evaluation skills
5 th October	Cloze exercise on Milgram	Flashcards / revision resources on The Cognitive Approach
12	Revision card on Situational Variables	Topic: Cognitive Neuroscience KO

19	Legitimacy of authority activity	KO test
26	Half term	
2 nd November	Paper 1 question 1 Minority Influence APFC of Moscovici	The Biological Approach
9	Guided independent reading of why we have Research Methods in Psychology	KO: Biological Approach
16	IV and DV revision card	Massolit lecture: Freud
23	Psychboost on IVs and DVs	Research Humanistic Approach
30	Paper 1 past question on IVs and DVs	Reading of Carl Rogers Theory
7 th December	Guided reading on the effect of Demand Characteristics	Essay writing skills: Watch Video on AO1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52d2hTtRNHU
14	Find examples of Investigator Effect eg Hans	Comparing Approaches: essays plans
21	Christmas holidays	
28	Christmas holidays	
4 th January	Observations – completion of an observation	Topic: Memory
11	Sampling – examples of 4 different samples	The Working Memory Model
18	Guided independent reading of Ethical Issues	Research and summary of Tutor2You piece on Forgetting
25	Work out examples of mean, median and mode	Flashcards / revision resources on EWT
1 st February	Work experience	
8	Draw bar chart, frequency polygon and histogram	Topic: Language & Age KO & Theory
15	Half term	
22	Write example question of Sign Test	Psychboost video on The Cognitive Interview
1 st March	Research Implications for the Economy of Psychological Research	Research and summary of article on Definitions of Mental Health
8	Log on to GCSE Bitesize and review, fractions, decimals, ratios and percentages	Watch Tom Bear on OCD
15	Start workbook on Research Methods (emailed out this week)	Explanations of Depression-poster
22	Paper 1 Question 1: exam question on Lorenz and Harlow	Flashcards / revision resources on Phobias
29	Easter holiday	
5 th April	Easter holidays	
12	Guided reading on Bowlby's Maternal Deprivation Hypothesis	Revision – How to write AO3 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52d2hTtRNHU
19	KO on Attachment	Pre reading: Approaches in Psychology
26	Watch video clip on Ainsworth Strange Situation	Massolit lecture on Bandura
3 rd May	Guided reading on war orphans	Flashcards / revision resources on Memory Topic
10	KO Attachment	KO revision – Memory
17	AO2 exam question for revision	AO2 revision – all yr 12 topics
24	Data collection for RM practical	News item explain in terms of one of the Approaches

31	Half term	
7 th June	Revision: Social Influence	KO revision Approaches
14	Revision: Mental Health	KO revision Mental Health
21	Trial examinations	Trial examinations
28	Learn key terms in Forensic Psychology	Gender Bias - article
5 th July	Biological explanations – guided reading	Culture Bias – essay practice
12	Biological explanations of offender behaviour - Psychboost	Nature v Nurture – lecture
19	All revision cards up to date and filed	All revision cards up to date and filed