**A Level Psychology**

**Introduction – an outline of the course**

Welcome to A Level Psychology. During your time at Sixth Form, you will study a range of psychological theories, develop an understanding of different types of crime and the criminal justice system

This is a two-year course, which enables you to gain a deep insight into our behaviour and understanding of how the mind works. You will study every aspect of the human experience by drawing links between human behaviour and many different psychological theories based on everyday observations. The AQA Year 1 part of the course is split into six sections across two papers, Year 2 will then consist of an additional paper comprising of four sections. At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and consist of multiple choice, short answer, and extended writing questions.

**Are you/do you…**

* Curious about the world and the people in it?
* Want to know how your mind works and what controls your/others behaviour?
* Able to think critically and question what you observe around you?
* Enjoy discussing your ideas with others and evaluating different points of view?
* Able to conduct independent research and interpret the findings of your studies?

If so, then A Level Psychology is the subject for you…

**What will we be studying in the first year?**

In Year 12, you will study iintroductory topics in Psychology, where you will learn about conformity, social norms, how the mind remembers and forget information and how children form attachments plus the consequences when attachments go wrong.

We will then look at Psychology in context, where you will learn more about the different approaches in psychology, how to define, explain and treat abnormal behaviour such as phobias, depression, and OCD and how to design and conduct your own research. The knowledge gained in these units will give you a deep understanding of human behaviour and our mental processes.

**The topics include:**

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| --- | --- |
| Social Influence | Approaches in Psychology |
| Memory | Psychopathology |
| Attachment | Research Methods  Gender |
| Aggression  Schizophrenia  Issues and Debates |  |

**What can I do that will help me prepare for A Level Psychology?**

You may wish to use some of your summer to carry out some background reading and preparation, the summer gap task contains various research-based tasks which allow you to explore the different psychological theories and concepts which we will look at more closely in September.

It would also be useful to look at the specification for more detail about these topics. You can find this at: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF>

You may want to carry out extra reading using a revision website which you can find at: <https://learndojo.org/a-level/aqa-psychology/>.

**Summer Gap Task**

The best way to prepare for Psychology is to complete the summer gap task that has been set.

If you read the booklet and complete the tasks over the summer, then you will be using the skills that you have developed during your GCSEs. It is easy to let these skills lapse which will make the start of your A levels more difficult, because you will be trying to remember what you did at GCSE and learn new knowledge and skills.

[On the school website](https://www.guiseleyschool.org.uk/), if you click on Sixth Form and follow the list until you see Year 11 into 12 Gap Tasks. Click on this and find the Psychology task which is a PDF booklet.

The booklet has been produced by the exam board (AQA) that you will be studying. In this transition pack there are various tasks that we would like you to complete, these will be of benefit to you when you start the course*.* It starts with a course overview, expectations of the course, a maths assessment, and a range of research tasks to help support you with each of the topics. Many of these tasks are research based, it may appear to be a lot of work, but it won’t take you long to complete this and you will be rewarded by having a better understanding of the course.

The tasks are designed to help you remember what you learnt at GCSE and give you exercise to practice and develop these skills.

You don’t have to complete this work in one go. Why not wait until you have a rainy day?

We are really looking forward to seeing you in September and working with you so that you achieve your goals and aspirations.