A Level Psychology Transition Pack

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- This pack contains a programme of activities and resources to prepare you to start an A-level in Psychology in September.
- You are required to complete **ALL** of the activities in this transition pack ready for the first week of the new academic year.
- Do not rush it. I advise that you complete different parts of the transition pack throughout the remainder of the summer term and over the summer holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.
- **The A Level in Psychology is a fun, embracing yet challenging qualification.** It will develop your thinking skills and vastly expand your knowledge of human behaviour.
- Please bring your booklet to your first psychology lesson.

Mrs P Moon

(Head of A level Psychology)

COURSE DETAILS:

QUALIFICATION: 'A' Level

DURATION OF COURSE: 2 years

SPECIFICATION: AQA

COURSE WORK: No coursework, only exams

PAPER 1: INTRODUCTORY TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY EXAM

- *2 HOURS DURATION*

COMPULSORY CONTENTY

A THIRD OF THE A2 MARK

OUT OF 96 MARKS

- ❖ Social influence
- ❖ Memory
- ❖ Attachment
- ❖ Psychopathology

PAPER 2: PSYCHOLOGY IN CONTEXT EXAM

- *2 HOURS DURATION*
- *COMPULSORY CONTENTY*
- *A THIRD OF THE A2 MARK*
- *OUT OF 96 MARKS*
- ❖ Approaches in psychology
- ❖ Biopsychology
- ❖ Research methods

PAPER 3: ISSUES AND OPTIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY EXAM

- *2 HOURS DURATION*

COMPULSORY CONTENT

PLUS THREE OPTIONS

A THIRD OF THE A2 MARK

OUT OF 96 MARKS

- ❖ Issues and debates in psychology

THEN CHOOSE ONE OPTION FROM EACH BLOCK.

OPTION BLOCK ONE (CHOOSE ONE)

- ❖ Relationships

OPTION BLOCK TWO (CHOOSE ONE)

- ❖ Schizophrenia

OPTION BLOCK THREE (CHOOSE ONE)

- ❖ Forensic psychology

QUICK GUIDE TO THE 'A' LEVEL SUBJECT

ALL THREE PAPERS EXAMINED IN THE SUMMER AT THE END OF THE A2 YEARS (MAY/JUNE)



TASK 1: WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

The British Psychological Society (BPS) who lay down the rules and regulations for all psychological activity in the UK define psychology as:

Psychology: *"the scientific study of the human mind and behavior"*

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

QUESTION	WRITE YOUR ANSWERS HERE:
1. Why have I chosen to study this subject?	
2. What does it mean by human mind and human behaviour?	
3. What are psychologists interested in?	
4. Why should we study human behaviour and or human mind?	

TASK 2: AREAS OF PSYCHOLOGY



- There are many different types of psychology e.g. industrial organised psychology, educational psychology, clinical psychology, forensic psychology, sports psychology, health psychology, counselling etc. They will be placed in one the categories. These categories are designed to help people understand the context in which a particular psychology topic is likely to be encountered. As such, they should neither be seen as definitive, nor exhaustive.

- **RESEARCH THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF PSYCHOLOGY** and find out What they are and the types of behaviour they investigate.

- The following website will be useful in this task and don't forget to use other websites too!

https://www.all-about-psychology.com/types-of-psychology.html

1. COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
2. DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
3. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
4. BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
5. INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES/ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

TASK 3 – Approaches in Psychology

There are some core approaches to Psychology that you need to know for your A level – they are different ways of explaining human behaviours. Some of these are listed below: your job is to do some research on them using the internet (Wikipedia, while sometimes untrustworthy, is very good for this! There are also plenty of great videos on YouTube you can watch). 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

The Psychodynamic Approach

Humanistic Approach

Task 4 – Psychological History

You need to create an A4 Psychological History timeline. On your timeline you should include a number of features such as the ones below (but not necessarily ONLY these). To make a high quality timeline, you will need to do some additional research into what each of the events actually refers to – and why it might have been important to the development of Psychology.

The Curious Case of Phineas Gage, Wilhelm Wundt's Psychology Lab, foundation of the American Psychological Association, Sigmund Freud publishes *"The Interpretation of Dreams"*, Pavlov's Dog Studies are published, Carl Rogers publishes *"Counselling and Psychotherapy"*, the first use of a brain scan in Psychological research.

This will be the focus of one of the topics we will study next year. A great link for this task is https://allpsych.com/timeline/.

Task 5 – Researching Psychological Disorders

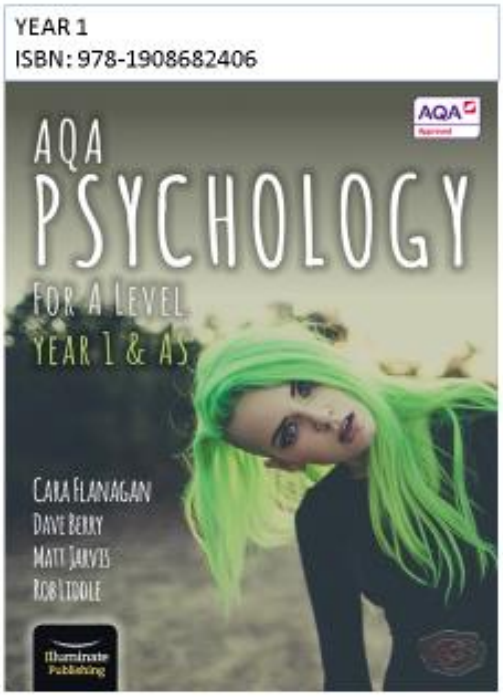
Your final task is to explore some psychology in the real world by looking at two of the following disorders. For each, you should create a short fact file: what is the disorder? What are the psychological causes? How do psychologists treat this disorder? Choose **one** to complete, but if you like you can complete more! The disorders are:

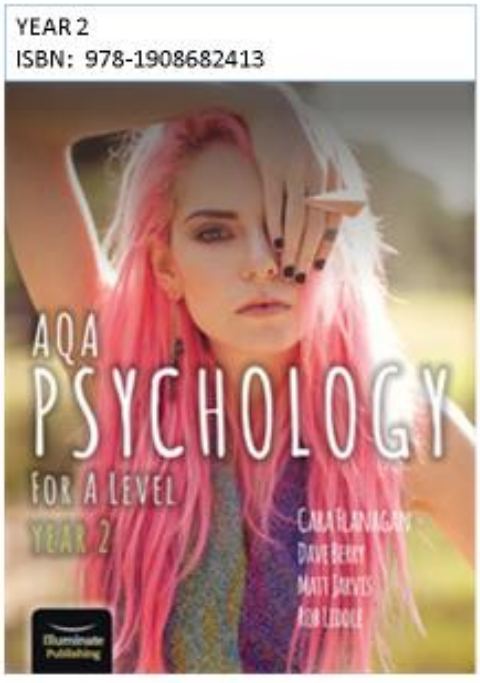
- Depression
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)
- Anorexia Nervosa
- Schizophrenia
- Agoraphobia
- Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD)
- Obesity

TEXTBOOKS:

It is a requirement of the course that by the end of the second week in September you have purchased the compulsory Year 1 textbook. There are a number of available textbooks for this course – it is very important that the correct one is purchased. An image has been attached below.

TEXT BOOKS





RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

- https://www.simplypsychology.org/
- https://www.all-about-psychology.com/developmental-psychology.html

Task 6: MATHS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Introduction:

In Psychology about 10% of the marks available are maths skills – in terms of overall marks this equates to about a grade. The Maths skills are an equivalent level to that of GCSE Maths/Stats– this booklet is to help you become more familiar with some of the mathematical content that you will need to know for the course.

1) Standard form:

Sometimes psychologists will come across very large or very small numbers. Because of very large numbers, it is often necessary to simplify these using shorthand, this is known as standard form.

Write in standard form

a) 70 × 105
b) 40 × 105
c) 0.8 × 106
d) 0.4 × 108
e) 0.3 × 108
f) 0.7 × 106
g) 150 × 104
h) 480 × 102
i) 0.044 × 105
j) 0.073 × 107

2) Rounding to decimal places

Round to 1 decimal place

a) 0.374
b) 0.798
c) 0.393
d) 0.584

Round to 2 decimal places

e) 0.136
f) 0.138
g) 0.464

Round to three decimal places

h) 29.9757
i) 46.2317
j) 79.0919

Round the numbers in the table. **Number**	**1 decimal place**	**2 decimal places**
0.181	0.2	k)
8.928	l)	m)
0.4923	n)	o)
45.7053	p)	q)

3) Rounding to significant figures

Round to 1 significant figure

a) 15
b) 983
c) 0.0097
d) 1.9

Round to 2 significant figures

e) 0.133
f) 0.0403
g) 90054

Round to 3 significant figures

h) 0.6402
i) 160.7

Round the numbers in the table. **Number**	**1 significant figure**	**2 significant figures**	**3 significant figures**
4.915	5	j)	k)
5253	l)	m)	n)
197.196	o)	p)	q)
0.4063	r)	s)	t)

4) Using percentages, fractions and decimals

Convert to a decimal:

a) 12
b) 340
c) 65%

d) 153%

e) 51.6%
f) 41%

Convert to a fraction,
reduced to simplest form:
g) 0.2
h) 0.62
i) 90%

Convert to a percentage
j) 0.87
k) 2.11
l) 0.017
m) 2.91
n) 910
o) 25

Convert to a fraction:
p) 67%

Sample Question

Look at the pie chart below What fraction of divorced adults had a type B attachment?

A pie chart to show the distribution of infant attachment types of divorced adults



A. 1/5

B. 3/10

C. 2/5

D. 1/2

5) Ratios

Simplify

a) 5 : 10

b) 15 : 5

c) 5 : 50

d) 52 : 56

e) 52 : 12

f) 52 : 56

g) 18 : 22 : 12

h) 16 : 52 : 48

i) 42 : 15 : 24

Sample question

The findings from the study are presented below:

A table to show the number of participants who perceived the ambiguous image as a monkey or as a teapot from both conditions: image presented with animals and image presented with kitchen items.

	Perceived as a monkey	**Perceived as a teapot**
Presented with animals	15	10
Presented with kitchen items	5	12

a) Identify and simplify the ratio of the number of participants who perceived a monkey in the first condition and the number who perceived a monkey in the second condition.

b) Identify and simplify the ratio of the number of participants who perceived a teapot in the first condition and the number who perceived a teapot in the second condition.

MATHS IN PSYCHOLOGY ANSWERS:

1) Using standard form

a) 7×106

b) 4×106

c) 8×105

d) 4×107

e) 3×107

f) 7×105

g) 1.5×106

h) 4.8×104

i) 4.4×103

j) 7.3×105

2) Rounding – decimal places

a) 0.4

b) 0.8

c) 0.4

d) 0.6

e) 0.14

f) 0.14

g) 0.46

h) 29.976

i) 46.232

j) 79.092

k) 0.18

l) 8.9

m) 8.93

n) 0.5

o) 0.49

p) 45.7

q) 45.71

3) Rounding – significant figures

a) 20
b) 1000
c) 0.01
d) 2
e) 0.13
f) 0.040
g) 90000
h) 0.640
i) 161
j) 4.9
k) 4.92
l) 5000
m) 5300
n) 5250
o) 200
p) 200
q) 197
r) 0.4
s) 0.41
t) 0.406

4) Using percentages, fractions and decimals

a) 0.5

b) 0.075

c) 0.65

d) 1.53

e) 0.516

f) 0.41

g) 1/5

h) 31/50

i) 9/10

j) 87%

k) 211%

l) 1.7%

m) 291%

n) 90%

o) 40%

p) 67/100

Sample Fraction Q:

A 1/5

5) Ratios

a) 1 : 2

b) 3 : 1

c) 1 : 10

d) 13 :14

e) 13 : 3

f) 13 : 14

g) 9 : 11 : 6

h) 4 :13 : 12

i) 14 : 5 : 8

Sample Ratio Q:

a) 3 : 1 (simplified from 15 : 5)

b) 5 : 6 (simplified from 10 :12)