



STEP UP TO 6TH FORM

KIMBERLEY SCHOOL TRANSITION INFORMATION

Psychology A Level AQA

COURSE DETAILS

UNIT 1

Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence – How is our behaviour influenced by others? Why do some people conform/obey and others do not?
- Memory – How does our memory system work? Why do we forget? How can memory be manipulated?
- Attachment – How and why do infants attach to caregivers? What happens if they don't? Are there different attachment types?
- Psychopathology – How do we define abnormality? What are the causes/treatments of phobias, depression and OCD?

UNIT 2

Psychology in Context

- Approaches – how do the 6 approaches explain human behaviour and mental illness?
- Biopsychology – do different parts of the brain perform specific functions? Can the brain recover from damage? How can we study the brain? What happens in the brain when we are asleep?
- Research Methods – How do psychologists conduct research? What ethical issues should we consider? How do we analyse data and structure a report?

UNIT 3

Issues and Options in Psychology

- Issues and Debates – Does nature or nurture play more of a role in human behaviour? What is gender bias in research/theory?
- Relationships – how do relationships form and breakdown? Are virtual different to face-to-face? What are parasocial ones?
- Schizophrenia – What are the symptoms, causes and treatments? Which treatment is most effective?
- Aggression – Is violence innate or learned? Why are rates of prison aggression on the increase? What role does the media play?

EXAMS

3 x 2hrs (33.3%)



LINK TO THE SPECIFICATION

See a detailed document of what we will cover in this course:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF> >>



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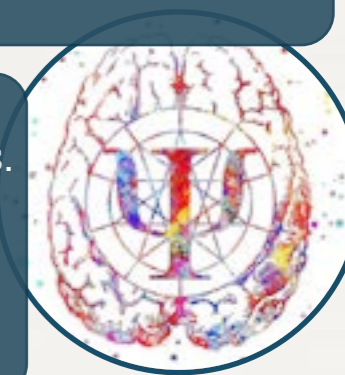
Work you can do to prepare for A Level study

Wider Reading

- Britton, P. (1998). The Jigsaw Man.
- Slater, L. (2005). Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century.
- Zimbardo, P. (2008). The Lucifer Effect: How Good People Turn Evil.
- Sacks, O. (2011). The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat.
- Ropper, A. & Burrell, B.D. (2016). Reaching Down the Rabbit Hole: Extraordinary Journeys into the Human Brain.

Research preparation for key psychologists in the course. Find out their studies and/or theories.

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|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Sigmund Freud | • Phillip Zimbardo |
| • Ivan Pavlov and B.F. Skinner | • Stanley Milgram |
| • Albert Bandura | • John Bowlby |
| • Abraham Maslow | • Mary Ainsworth |
| • Marie Jahoda | • Elizabeth Loftus |



FILM & TV

Beautiful Mind
The Girl on the Train
Split, Unbreakable and Glass trilogy
The Stanford Prison Experiment
Conversations with a Killer (Netflix)
Derren Brown – The Push, Sacrifice
Stacey Dooley – On the Psych Ward (BBCi)
BBC sounds – The Science of Evil
The Man with no Short-Term Memory (YouTube)
BBC Stories – I Only Have Half a Brain – Jodie Milner.



BOOKS

Before I go to sleep – S. J. Watson
Gone Girl – Gillian Flynn
Reaching Down The Rabbit Hole: Allan Ropper
The Lucifer Effect - Philip Zimbardo
Opening Skinner's Box - Lauren Slater



USEFUL RESOURCE LINKS

For Documentaries: www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer - Louis Theroux
For Podcasts: www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/category/podcasts - Mental Health
For TED talks: www.ted.com/topics/psychology E.g. Elizabeth Loftus – how reliable is your memory?

