

# A Level Psychology Introduction Summer Project



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 complete the activities in this booklet in readiness to begin your studies. This will give you a head start in some of the areas students most often find most complicated.

This will show us your commitment and may be used alongside your GCSE grades and behaviour as entry criteria – sixth form study is hard work and there are no short cuts. Commitment to your studies is essential. Good Luck!

Good luck and Enjoy your summer ☺

*Mrs Skelly, Mrs Dulson and Mrs Webster*



# The AQA Course

AS or A Level Year 1

## Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

### What's assessed

Compulsory content 1–3 above

### Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 72 marks in total
- 50% of AS

### Topics:

Social Influence  
Memory  
Attachment

## Paper 2: Psychology in Context

### What's assessed

Compulsory content 4–6 above

### Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 72 marks in total
- 50% of AS

### Topics:

Research Methods  
Psychopathology  
Approaches in  
Psychology  
(including Bio  
Psychology)

100% Exam (two papers), 0% Coursework





# Course Information

## AS or A Level Year 1

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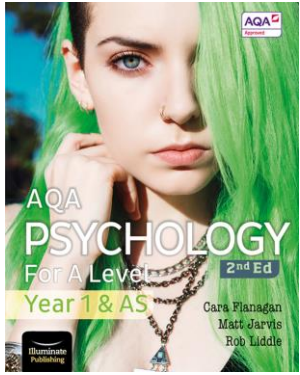
Look at the specification for more detail about these topics. You can find this at:  
<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP2015.PDF>

You will be expected to know and understand (AO1) the information about the topics, to be able to apply (AO2) that knowledge and understanding and to be able to analyse and evaluate (AO3) that knowledge and understanding.



# Course Information

## AS or A Level Year 1

Qualification	A level Psychology
Teachers Names	Miss Major Mrs Dulson Mrs Isaac Mrs Osbourn
Contact Emails	<a href="mailto:lmajor@coombedean.co.uk">lmajor@coombedean.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:ndulson@coombedean.co.uk">ndulson@coombedean.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:sisaac@coombedean.co.uk">sisaac@coombedean.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:eosbourn@coombedean.co.uk">eosbourn@coombedean.co.uk</a>
Exam Board Link	AQA <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>
Specification Details	7182
Recommended Learning Links	<a href="https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html">https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html</a> <a href="https://www.senecalearning.com/">https://www.senecalearning.com/</a> <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology">https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology</a> <a href="https://psychologylockdown.wordpress.com/">https://psychologylockdown.wordpress.com/</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEA_qlpBQW9WzzjYUQ5-ilg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEA_qlpBQW9WzzjYUQ5-ilg</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqqlPOTshm8EM8CCWkCy9Pg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqqlPOTshm8EM8CCWkCy9Pg</a>
Text Book	<p>Year 12 textbook (2nd Ed) by Cara Flanagan, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle Published by Illuminate Publishing Out early May 2020</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> We will ask that you pay a refundable deposit for your course Text book. This will be refunded in full at the end of the year should your book be returned, in good condition.</p> 
Online Textbook Details	<a href="https://www.illuminate.digital/aqapsych1/">https://www.illuminate.digital/aqapsych1/</a> User: SCOOMBE Password: STUDENT



# Task 1: Issues and Debates

## Determinism VS Free Will

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

Determinism

Free Will

Definition:

Example in psychology:

Definition:

Example in psychology:

What are the positives of determinism?

What are the negatives of determinism?

What are the positives of free will?

What are the negatives of free will?

## Nature VS Nurture

Nurture

Nature

Definition:

Example in psychology:

Definition:

Example in psychology:

Why can breaking behaviour down into nature or nurture be a good thing?

What is the problem with doing this?

# Task 1: Issues and Debates

## Reductionism VS Holism

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



Reductionism

Holism

Definition:

Example in psychology:

What are the positives of reductionism?

What are the negatives of reductionism ?

Definition:

Example in psychology:

What are the positives of holism?

What are the negatives of holism?

## Idiographic VS Nomothetic

Idiographic

Nomothetic

Definition:

What data is produced:

How many people are tested on?

Does it create detail or general laws?

Definition:

What data is produced:

How many people are tested on?

Does it create detail or general laws?

What are the positives of idiographic research?

What are the negatives of idiographic research?

What are the positives of Nomothetic research?

What are the negatives of Nomothetic research?

# Task 1: Issues and Debates

## Socially Sensitive



What is meant by socially sensitive research?

Give some examples of areas of socially sensitive research?

How can this be used negatively in society?

## Gender Bias

What is Alpha Bias?

What study in Psychology is an example?

What is Beta Bias?

What study in Psychology is an example?

## Culture Bias

How is research in Psychology culturally biased?

Can you give a famous example?

What is meant by cultural relativism? How could this be done?



# Summer Film List:

## *Psychology films and documentaries*

### **Films:**

Disney Pixars Inside Out  
Shutter Island  
Shawshank Redemption  
The One Who Flew Over The Cuckoo's nest  
Silence Of The Lambs  
Beautiful Mind  
Good Will Hunting  
Black Fish  
Fightclub  
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas  
Seven  
Limitless

### **Programs:**

Making a murder (Netflix)  
Three Girls (Netflix)  
White House Farm (Netflix)  
Time (BBC iPlayer)  
Louis Theroux Documentaries (Netflix)  
Cecil Hotel (Netflix)  
The murder next door (Netflix)  
The innocence files  
The Staircase  
The People V OJ Simpson





# Useful Resources & Further Reading

*To help you on your way...*

## Websites:

- **Youtube** have a number of really good factual clips. In particular 'Crash Course' have produced a number of introductory videos to key elements in Psychology.
- <http://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html> - Tailored to the old specification, but has all the relevant key information for A Level Psychology.
- <http://www.psychteacher.co.uk/> - Tailored to the old specification but contains key information for A Level Psychology.

## Books:

- ***Working Memory, Thought and Action*** – Alan Baddeley
  - ***The Lucifer Effect*** – Phillip Zimbardo
  - ***Obedience to Authority*** – Stanley Milgram
  - ***Fundamentals of Cognition*** – Michael Eysenck
  - ***Psychology: The Science of the Mind and Behaviour*** – Richard Gross
  - ***The Complete Companions: AQA Psychology Year 1 and AS Student Book*** – Mike Cardwell & Cara Flanagan
  - ***AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS Student Book*** – Cara Flanagan & Dave Berry
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