

# PSYCHOLOGY A-LEVEL

This is an information and activity booklet for those who are interested in studying A-level Psychology in September and are keen to get some background knowledge

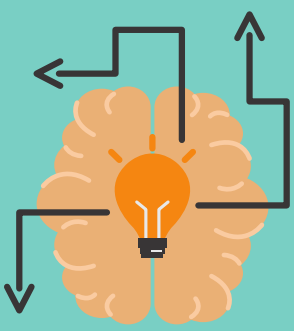


We are hoping that the activities spark your interest and encourage you to use some of the websites, read a book or two and find out which area of psychology you are most interested in!

Most of all, we hope you enjoy it, and that we see you in September ready to study with us at Scarborough SixthForm College



- **A Level Psychology**
- **Exam board Edexcel,**
- **2015 syllabus**



# PSYCHOLOGY

A- LEVEL

**I AM INTERESTED IN PSYCHOLOGY  
BECAUSE....**

**THINGS I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT  
PSYCHOLOGY.....**

**WHAT I AM LOOKING FORWARD  
TO LEARNING.....**



# Pick a psychologist



and do some research!

**Martin Seligman - theory of learned helplessness**

**Mary Ainsworth - attachment and the strange situation**

**Miller - magical number 7**

**Angela Duckworth - grit and academic achievement**

**Philip Zimbardo - the Stanford prison experiment**

**Solomon Asch - conformity studies**

**Who is the psychologist you chose? Provide some details about them.**

**What were the main findings or points?**

**Did this theory/Study help others in society , how?**





# PERSPECTIVES



## Areas of psychology.

There are many different types of Psychology. These types are called "perspectives", as they each take a different approach to explaining human behaviour. The 4 you will study at A-Level are below. Use the internet to find out about them and make some notes.

**SOCIAL**

**COGNITIVE**

**BIOLOGICAL**

**LEARNING**



# HOW TO CONDUCT PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH



## AIM

What is the aim of the study? what questions do the researchers want to answer?



## BACKGROUND

What do we already know about the topic area? What have other psychologists found about this behaviour in the past?



## SAMPLE

Who are the participants who are going to be doing the study? How were they recruited? Where from? what is their age, background details and gender ?



## METHOD

How was the research carried out? what materials and equipment were used? How long did the study take and where was the location?



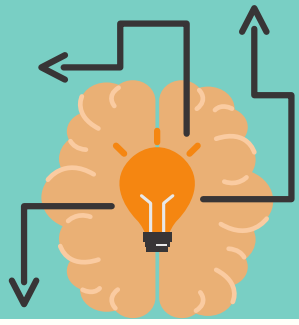
## RESULTS

What were the findings? This section should contain presentations of graphs and results tables, and the results of statistical tests. Qualitative data is reported if it has been used



## DISCUSSION

What can you conclude about human behaviour as a result of the study? How is it useful? Are there any strengths or weaknesses ? What are the next steps in future research?



# FIND A STUDY!

**PICK A STUDY THAT INTERESTS YOU AND  
SUMMARISE IT BELOW**

Aim

Background

Sample

Procedure

Results

Discussion



# Useful preparation skills

These skills and character strengths are not essential to be able to study Psychology, but using and developing them will help you to get the most out of your studies



Calculate a percentage

Show empathy

Think creatively

See both sides of the story

Debate different points of view with others

Draw and label a graph

Think critically

Have an interest in other people

Enjoy reading

Calculate a ratio

Be inquisitive

Create an argument for or against

Remember facts

Show perseverance

Care about the welfare of others

Have fun and get involved!



# Useful Information

Below are some psychology related books, films and websites that you might find interesting.

## BOOKS

The How of Happiness  
The Psychopath Test  
Elephants on Acid  
GRIT  
Reaching down the rabbit hole  
Mistakes were made (but not by me)  
The private life of the brain  
The Lucifer Effect  
The little book of psychology  
The Jigsaw Man

## WEBSITES

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/psychology-2015.html>

psychcentral.com

psychologytoday

British Psychological Society

American Psychological Society

Very Well Mind

National Institute of Mental Health

Coursea (free online courses)

BPS Research Digest

Psychteacher

## FILMS

- Shutter Island
- A Beautiful Mind
- One Flew Over the Cuckoos' Nest
- Experimentier
- The Stanford Prison Experiment
- Nell
- Split
- The Ted Bundy Tapes

## CONTACTS

Anne Beckham  
[a.beckham@s6f.org.uk](mailto:a.beckham@s6f.org.uk)

Hannah Dunn  
[h.dunn@s6f.org.uk](mailto:h.dunn@s6f.org.uk)

