



## Welcome to A Level Psychology

### What you can read:

- OCR A Level specification (H567) - <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171732-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-psychology-h567.pdf>
- OCR Psychology for A Level Book 1 by Louise Ellerby-Jones, Sandra Latham and Nigel Wooldridge

### What you can watch:

Below are links to playlists of videos which summarise some of the topics you will be covering when you join us at Burnley College which you could watch to get you started.

- Introduction to psychology - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M>
- Research methods - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-DUy6KpkZZd633hf-VWfLzdmgsV5bND>
- Core studies - [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-DUy6KpkZZfWII-vGScITC5JU9\\_hSHmC](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-DUy6KpkZZfWII-vGScITC5JU9_hSHmC)
- Films and TV series: Atypical, Good Will Hunting, A Beautiful Mind, Rain man, The Experiment, Derren Brown: the push, Derren Brown :Sacrifice, Shutter Island, 5 steps to Tyranny, The Brain: A secret history and the following titles on Netflix: 100 humans, The mind explained, Inside of the criminal mind, The creative brain, Babies, Mindhunter.

### What topics you will cover: (we start with research methods topics in September and October!)

Research methods		Core studies	
Topic	Detail	Topic	Detail
Research methods	Experiments, observations, correlations and self-reports <b>Skills: evaluation, application.</b>	Core studies	Freud (1909) and Baron-Cohen et al. (1997) Sperry (1968) and Casey et al. (2011) Loftus and Palmer (1974) and Grant et al. (1998)
Planning and conducting research	Aims and hypotheses Populations, samples and sampling techniques, Variables and Control <b>Skills: evaluation, application, research skills and design.</b>		Milgram (1963) and Bocchairo et al. (2012) Bandura et al. (1961) and Chaney et al. (2004) <b>Skills: evaluation, application, analysis.</b>
Data recording, analysis and presentation	Raw data, Levels of data, Types of data, Descriptive statistics, Charts and Graphs, Inferential statistics, Methodological issues (Including reliability, validity, ethics). <b>Skills: mathematical skills, data handling and analysis, evaluation.</b>	Approaches, perspectives and debates	Reductionism/Holism, Determinism/Free will Nature/Nurture, Individual/Situational Psychology as a science, Conducting socially sensitive research, Ethical considerations Usefulness of research.
Report writing	Sections and sub-sections of a practical report, Referencing, Peer review <b>Skills: reporting and referencing your research.</b>		Individual differences approach, Biological approach, Cognitive approach, Social approach, Developmental approach Behaviourist perspective, Psychodynamic perspective. <b>Skills: Comparison, application, evaluation, debating.</b>
Practical activities	You will be conducting your own research here. <b>Skills: research planning and data analysis.</b>	Practical applications	How to apply your knowledge of topics learned! <b>Skills: application of learned knowledge to psychological issues in the real world.</b>
How science works	Research and the Scientific Method		

## Tasks you can do to prepare you:

Task 1	Link to specification
<p>Research what psychology is and create a mind map. You could include important areas of research interest.</p>	<p><b>May link to many areas of the specification.</b></p>
Task 2	Link to specification
<p>Create a guide for student researchers on all the different methods psychologists may use to conduct research. Include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experimental methods</li> <li>2. Correlational analysis</li> <li>3. Observational methods</li> <li>4. Interviews</li> <li>5. Questionnaires</li> <li>6. Case studies</li> <li>7. Content analysis</li> <li>8. Review articles</li> </ol>	<p><b>Research methods;</b>            Lab experiments, quasi experiments, field experiments, covert observations, overt observations, participant observations, non-participant observations, naturalistic observations, controlled observations, structured observations, unstructured observations, structured interviews, unstructured interviews, semi-structured interviews.</p> <p><b>Core studies.</b></p>
Task 3	Link to specification
<p>Research each of the below areas of psychology and create a booklet which describes what psychologists from that area are interested in. For each area of psychology describe ONE piece of research that was done and what it tells us about human behaviour.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social psychology</li> <li>2. Biological psychology</li> <li>3. Individual differences psychology (try looking at research on autism)</li> <li>4. Cognitive psychology</li> <li>5. Developmental psychology</li> <li>6. Behaviourism</li> <li>7. Psychodynamic psychology</li> </ol>	<p><b>Core studies: areas and perspectives in psychology.</b></p>

## Contact information

If you have any questions regarding this or any other A Level course at Burnley College please contact [alevles@burnley.ac.uk](mailto:alevles@burnley.ac.uk) or call 01282 733373.

We look forward to seeing you in September.