

Year 12 A level Psychology

We study the Edexcel Psychology specification

In Year 12, you will study the first four topics of the A-Level, taught by two teachers:

Biological Psychology: the study of the biological processes which underpin behaviour and how our knowledge of brain structure, hormones and genetics can be used to explain aggression.

Cognitive psychology: the study of the cognitive processes which underpin memory and how our knowledge of memory can be used to support individuals with dyslexia.

Social psychology: the study of the social forces behind a range of everyday behaviours such as obedience and prejudice.

Learning Theories: the study of theories of learning and their usefulness to society in explaining aggressive behaviour in children, the influence of role models and the acquisition, development and treatment of phobias.

You will also study the synoptic topic 'Issues and Debates' throughout each topic area and as a series of lessons in the summer term.

Assessment

At the end of each half term you will complete a test on the work covered. At the end of the first term, the assessment focus area will be AO1 (how well you can describe the material you have learned about) and AO2 (how well you can apply your knowledge to new scenarios). Later assessments will cover all 3 skills areas (AO1, AO2 and AO3).

In the end of Year 12 mock exams you will sit A Level Paper 1 which covers the four topic areas studied in Year 12 and the synoptic area of issues and debates.

Our expectations of you

- ✓ bring all equipment to all lessons
- ✓ complete homework on time and to the best of your ability
- ✓ participate fully in lessons
- ✓ take responsibility for revising key concepts and terminology on a weekly basis
- ✓ attend weekly clinic sessions for extra support when necessary
- ✓ complete further reading and revision independently
- ✓ take responsibility for monitoring your progress and identifying your strengths and areas for further development

Further reading

For more information, you can look at the Edexcel website, where you can download the specification and sample assessment materials:

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

Class textbook: Edexcel Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS: Student Book – Flanagan, Jarvis, Liddle, Russel, Wood

Revision Guide: Edexcel Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS: Revision Guide – Flanagan, Liddle, Russel, Wood

Some other useful websites include the following:

www.psychologywizard.net - helpful for summaries of studies and theories

<https://psychologyrocksblog.wordpress.com/> - a range of useful support for exam technique and knowledge and understanding

<https://digest.bps.org.uk/> - for summaries of cutting edge psychological research