

A LEVEL TRANSITION WORK

A Level Psychology

Specification

AQA GCE Psychology

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/a-level/psychology-7182/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

Course Overview

Year 1 Subject Content	Year 2 Subject Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research methods Year 1 Social influence Attachment Psychopathology Approaches Issues and debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research methods Year 2 Biopsychology Schizophrenia Addiction Relationships

There is no coursework component to the course. You will sit three examinations at the end of the two year course and each one will be equally weighted in contributing to your final grade.

Assessments

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology	+	Paper 2: Psychology in context	+	Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology
What's assessed Compulsory content 1–4 above		What's assessed Compulsory content 5–7 above		What's assessed Compulsory content 8 above Optional content, one from option 1, 9–11, one from option 2, 12–14, one from option 3, 15–17 above
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks 		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 48 marks 		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section B: one topic from option 1, 9–11 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section C: one topic from option 2, 12–14 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks Section D: one topic from option 3, 15–17 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks

A LEVEL TRANSITION WORK

Recommended Reading / Revision

All students will have access to an online textbook that they can access on their devices and download and access to the Psychology review magazine online archives for wider reading outside of lessons.

In addition to this they will have access to all lesson powerpoints and Tutor2u revision companions which they should review regularly after lessons have taken place to allow for effective consolidation and revision prior to assessments.

Should students wish to look at any other material we recommend the following:

Past paper practice via the AQA website

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/a-level/psychology-7182/assessment-resources>

Past paper practice via the Physics and Maths Tutor website

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/psychology-revision/a-level-aqa>

Seneca learning for A level psychology

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Tutor2u youtube A level psychology material

<https://www.youtube.com/@tutor2u-official>

Psych boost A level psychology material

<https://www.youtube.com/@PsychBoost>

Transition work for Psychology A level students

Thank you for opting to study A-level Psychology at North Halifax Grammar School in September. Prior to the start of the course, it is extremely important for you to conduct some independent work at home to prepare you for your A-level studies. The work that you will complete will be background work to ensure you have some insight into Psychology.

Psychology may be a new subject for most of you, therefore conducting some research in the area is vital so that you can have a better idea about what you will be studying for the next two years.

I would like you to complete the following free online course so you can familiarise yourself with the course you are about to start:

<https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/introduction-to-aqa-a-level-psychology>

A LEVEL TRANSITION WORK

Psychology is an interesting subject that gives you opportunities to look at a wide range of topics from a variety of perspectives, using studies and theories to develop a clear understanding of human behaviour. It is important to remember that Psychology is a science that involves observing individual behaviour and looking for explanations as to why this behaviour takes place.

It is very important for you to keep up with the news and current affairs as advancements in Psychology are continuously changing and you must be able to apply real world experiences to your studies. I know you will complete each of the tasks in this booklet to the best of your ability and look forward to discussing them with you in September and beyond.

You may find the following free online course useful when completing the tasks:

<https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/transition-to-aqa-alevel-psychology-skills-booster>

Task one - find the definitions for the following:

What is psychology?	
Validity, including different types	
Reliability, including different types	
Demand characteristics	
Investigator effects	

A LEVEL TRANSITION WORK

Task two - find out about the origins of psychology:

Where did it begin?	
When did it become a discipline in its own right?	
Which psychologists and theories have had the greatest influence on the discipline?	
Where does it stand today?	

A LEVEL TRANSITION WORK

Create a timeline for psychology – include all the key events from experimental philosophy up to cognitive neuroscience. There are nine key events:

A LEVEL TRANSITION WORK

Task three: There are a range of different approaches in psychology. You should have a brief overview of these from the first set of work. You are now going to look at these in more detail. We would like you to research and get down some information on the following approaches:

	Main assumptions	Study	Strengths	Limitations
Behaviourist approach				
Biological approach				
Cognitive approach				
One other approach of your choice:				

The Psychology department is looking forward to meeting you in the sixth form in September. Please bring this work with you in the first week to your lessons.