

A level Psychology

Summer Project Booklet

Year 11 – Year 12



This booklet belongs to

.....

Welcome to A level Psychology!

This project booklet includes various tasks, all designed to give you an ideal grounding for your A level Psychology course.

Research and complete the tasks independently over the summer to get a head start and prepare for the key topics covered in Year 12.

Contents

Page 3 – Course overview

Page 4 – Shopping List

Pages 5-8 – Practical investigations and research tasks

Pages 9-11 – Biology Questions

Pages 12-14 – Maths Questions

Page 15 – 20 Key Terms



What will I study in A level Psychology?

The AQA Course

A Level Psychology

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology	+	Paper 2: Psychology in context	+	Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology
What's assessed SOCIAL INFLUENCE ATTACHMENTS MEMORY PSYCHOPATHOLOGY		What's assessed APPROACHES BIOPSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH METHODS (DOUBLE WEIGHTED)		What's assessed ISSUES AND DEBATES RELATIONSHIPS EATING BEHAVIOUR FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 2 hours96 marks in total33.3% of A-level		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 2 hours96 marks in total33.3% of A-level		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 2 hours96 marks in total33.3% of A-level
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marksSection B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marksSection C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marksSection 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 marksSection B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marksSection 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 marksSection B: RELATIONSHIPS multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marksSection C: EATING BEHAVIOUR multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marksSection D: FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY AGGRESSION multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks

100% Exam (3 exams), 0% coursework

It's time to go shopping...

For your first lesson you will need to bring with you the following equipment:

1. 2 x Lever Arch Files
2. 2 packets of folder dividers (10 in each)
3. An A4 pad of paper with holes in the left hand side so that it can be placed into your file (please do not buy an A5 or a ring bound pad of paper – this will only serve to frustrate you)



Task 1, Topic 1: Marvellous Memory...

Mini Experiment:

In this experiment you can test as many or as little people as you like. As the experimenter you should read out one line at a time of the triangle of numbers below to your participant. When you have finished reading out the line, your participant should recite back to you as many of the numbers they can remember. Record how many numbers they recall correctly on each line.

6
27 35
10 28 22
38 46 10 11
52 8 19 81 17
55 38 29 13 8 71
75 17 20 61 82 5 12
61 38 17 40 49 84 57 8
71 22 31 89 47 5 1 16 94
18 95 48 30 89 67 18 11 15 17
76 83 40 28 25 12 15 53 95 49 20
16 9 11 17 49 50 28 69 24 53 78 10
77 53 49 76 19 94 87 64 23 19 15 51 2
78 56 34 19 27 20 80 42 38 64 29 10 79 31

Now think about and explain:

- 1) What was the maximum amount of numbers your participants can recall from any line? (If you used more than one participant, take the average).
- 2) What do your results suggest about memory?

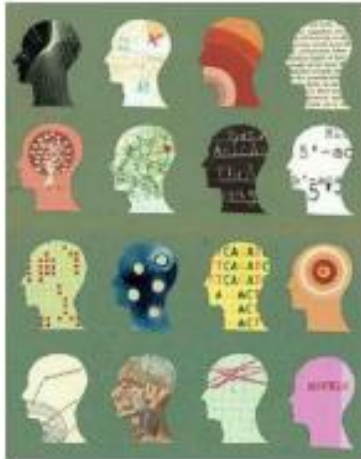
Now research and answer the following...

- 1) What is memory? Does it have different types? If so, explain them...
- 2) What is the capacity and duration of the average memory in humans?
- 3) What did George Miller do in 1956? What did he discover about memory? How does this link to the results from your experiment above?

Task 2

Psychopathology...

What is normal?



Consider, research and explain...

- 1) Is there such a thing as normal and abnormal? What are the definitions of these?
- 2) How do Psychologists decide what is abnormal?

Fear. Sadness. Obsession.



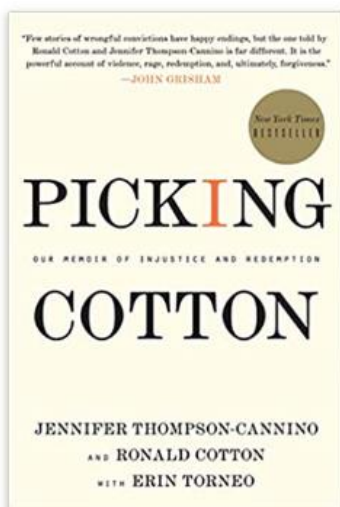
Produce a fact file on each of the following mental disorders. Include **symptoms**, potential **causes** and **treatments**.

- 1) Phobias
- 2) Depression
- 3) OCD

Task 3



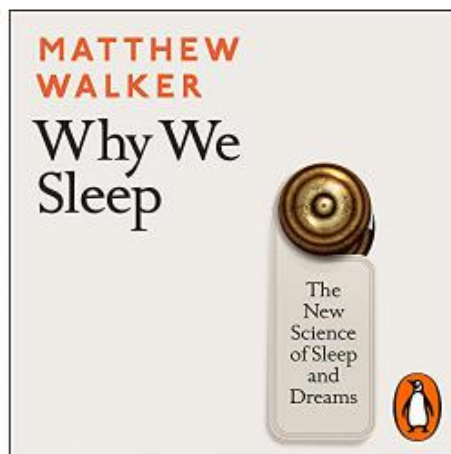
You need to choose one of the following books to read over the summer. Your task is to write a summary of your thoughts on the book (no more than 1 page). Use the blurb and the internet to find out which one interests you the most. If you have any issues accessing the book, please let us know and we can help you.



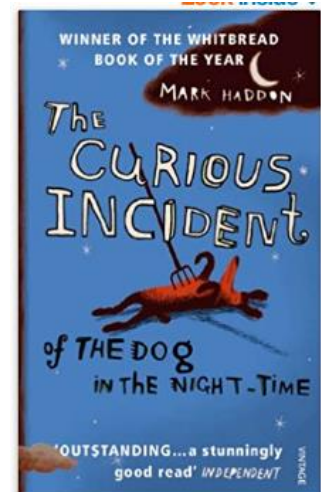
Jennifer Thompson was attacked at knifepoint by a man who broke into her apartment while she slept. She was able to escape, and eventually positively identified Ronald Cotton as her attacker. Ronald insisted that she was mistaken-- but Jennifer's positive identification was the compelling evidence that put him behind bars.

After eleven years, Ronald was allowed to take a DNA test that proved his innocence. He was released, after serving more than a decade in prison for a crime he never committed. Two years later, Jennifer and Ronald met face-to-face-- and forged an unlikely friendship that changed both of their lives.

With Ronald Cotton, Jennifer and



Professor Matthew Walker explores 20 years of cutting-edge research to solve the mystery of why sleep matters. Looking at creatures from across the animal kingdom as well as major human studies, *Why We Sleep* delves in to everything from what really happens during REM sleep to how caffeine and alcohol affect sleep and why our sleep patterns change across a lifetime, transforming our appreciation of the extraordinary phenomenon that safeguards our existence



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

For help with your research tasks...

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.
- <http://www.tutor2u.net> – This website is made specifically for your AQA course and has loads of helpful videos, webinars and revision quizzes.
- <http://www.psychologyhacked.com> – Lots of useful revision videos on topics you will study next year.

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

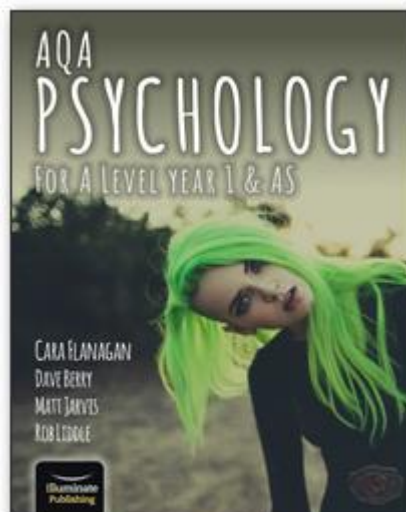
As a department we subscribe to an online textbook. You can buy a hard copy for yourself if you wish but it is not essential.

The link is as follows:

<https://illuminate.digital/agapsych1/>

Username: SREDHILLACADEMY

Password: STUDENT



Time to try some exam questions...

Biology and Mathematics are core subjects within Psychology and much of this knowledge you will already have from your GCSE studies. The following questions test the skills/knowledge you should already have.

Biopsychology – A Level Psychology

Q1.

Briefly explain **one** function of the endocrine system.

(Total 2 marks)

Q2.

Identify **two** glands that form part of the endocrine system **and** outline their functions.

1.

2.

(Total 4 marks)

Q3.

Complete the following sentence. Shade **one** box only.

Sensory neurons carry information

A away from the brain.

☐

B both to and from the brain.

☐

C towards the brain.

☐

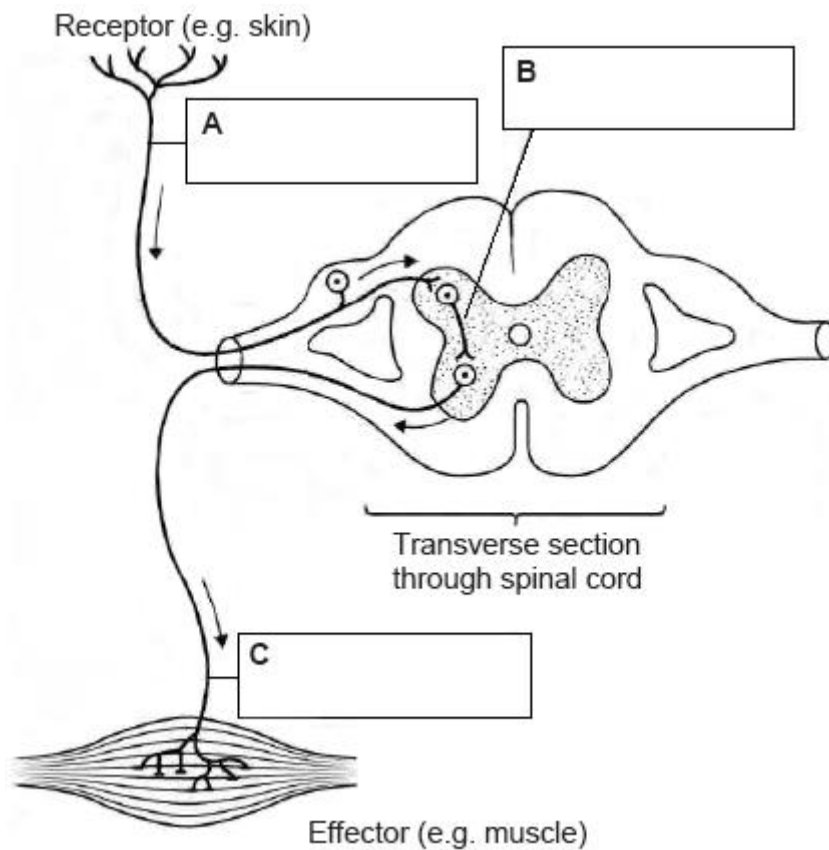
D within the brain.



(Total 1 mark)

Q4.

Name the types of neurons labelled **A**, **B** and **C** on the figure below. Write your answers in the boxes provided.



(Total 3 marks)

Q5.

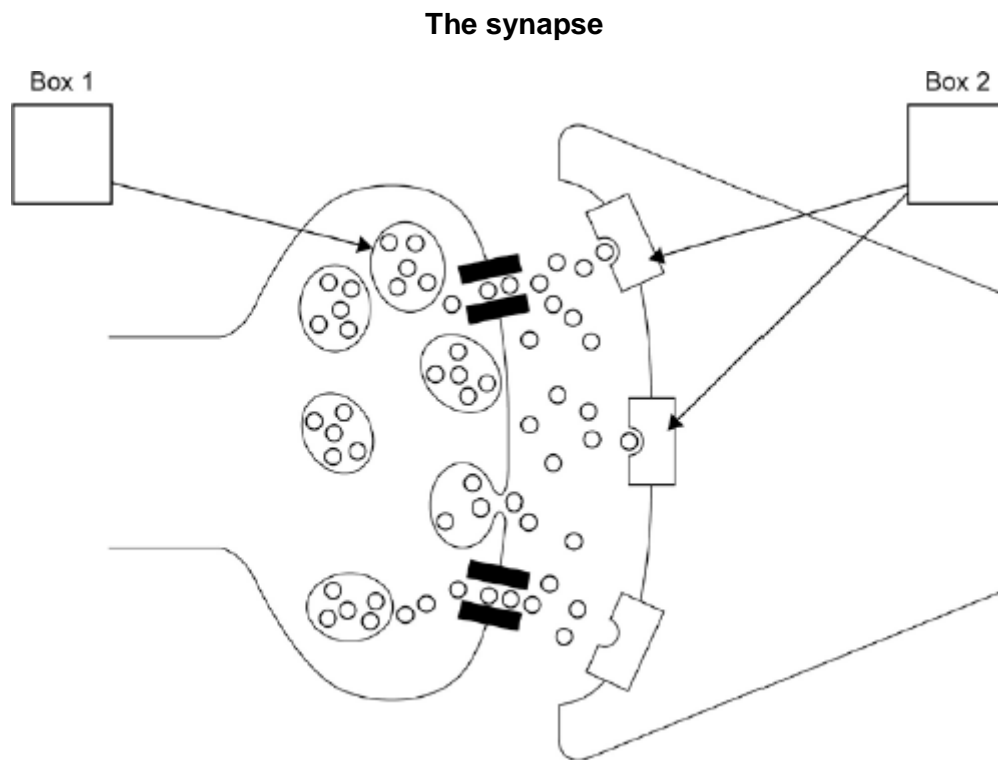
Outline the role of adrenaline in the fight or flight response.

(Total 4 marks)

Q6.

Label the **two** areas of the synapse in the diagram below by putting the appropriate letter in each box.

- A Axon
- B Dendrites
- C Neurotransmitters
- D Receptor sites
- E Vesicle



(Total 2 marks)

Q7.

Explain the process of synaptic transmission.

(Total 4 marks)

Maths – A Level Psychology

Q1.

A psychologist was at a concert where someone threw a bottle onto the stage and seriously injured one of the band members. The psychologist decided to use this incident to investigate the accuracy of eye witness testimony. She asked 10 people who saw the bottle being thrown, if they would allow her to interview them about this. A week later she interviewed each witness separately in a quiet room and asked them the same closed questions about what they had seen. She recorded their answers. It took her two and a half hours in total to interview the 10 witnesses.

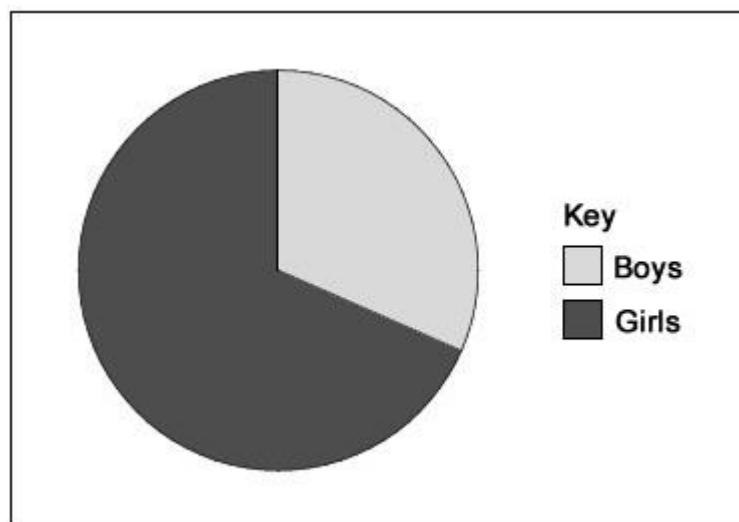
Calculate how many hours it would have taken the psychologist to interview all 1000 people who were at the event. Show your workings.

(2 marks)

Q2.

A researcher is investigating gender differences in classification of attachment. They conduct a study using Ainsworth's 'Strange Situation'. The results are shown in the figure below.

The proportions of boys and girls who are classified as securely attached



- (a) Using the information in the figure, estimate the percentage of **boys** and **girls** that are securely attached.

Boys = _____

Girls = _____

(2 marks)

- (b) In a different study, 150 children were classified as securely attached. Of these, 40% were boys. How many of the 150 children were girls? Show your workings.

(2 marks)

Q3.

Students often claim that listening to music helps them to concentrate. A psychologist was not aware of any previous research in this area. She decided to investigate this claim.

Forty students from a nearby sixth form centre volunteered to take part in her study. They each answered the following question:

‘Do you think that you concentrate on your work ‘better’, ‘worse’ or ‘the same’ if you listen to music while working?’

She obtained the results in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Responses to question - ‘Do you think that you concentrate on your work ‘better’, ‘worse’ or ‘the same’ if you listen to music while working?’

Better	Worse	The same
22	8	10

What percentage of the students reported that they would be able to concentrate ‘better’ if they listened to music while they worked? Show your workings.

(2 marks)

Q4.

A psychologist wanted to test whether listening to music improves running performance.

The psychologist conducted a study using 10 volunteers from a local gym. The psychologist used a repeated measures design. Half of the participants were assigned to condition A (without music) and half to condition B (with music).

All participants were asked to run 400 metres as fast as they could on a treadmill in the psychology department. All participants were given standardised instructions. All participants wore headphones in both conditions. The psychologist recorded their running times in seconds. The participants returned to the psychology department the following week and repeated the test in the other condition.

The results of the study are given in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Mean number of seconds taken to complete the 400m run and the standard deviation for both conditions

	Condition A (without music)	Condition B (with music)
Mean 400m time (s)	123	117
Standard deviation	9.97	14.5

Calculate the percentage decrease in the mean time it took participants to run 400 metres when listening to music. Show your workings. Give your answer to three significant figures.

(4 marks)

Finally, some Key Terms to learn...

You must learn the following 20 Key Terms OFF BY HEART. You will be tested on these in your first week of Psychology

Term	Definition
Cross-species Validity	The extent to which the findings of a research study can be generalised to other species
Cross-cultural Validity	The extent to which the findings of a research study can be generalised to other cultures
Demand Characteristics	Demand characteristics occur when the participant tries to work out the purpose of the research, and then acts accordingly
Dependent Variable (DV)	The variable that is measured (is affected by the IV)
Ecological Validity	The extent to which the findings can be generalised to a real life setting
Extraneous Variable	Any other variable that might affect the results (DV) that is not the IV
Field Experiment	An experiment taking place in a natural setting, but the IV is manipulated (changed) by the experimenter
Generalisability	The extent to which the results of the study can be applied to a wider population
Independent Variable (IV)	The variable that is manipulated (changed) to see if it affects the DV
Investigator Effects	Where a researcher (consciously or unconsciously) acts in a way to support their prediction
Laboratory Experiment	Laboratory experiments take place in controlled conditions, whereby the researcher manipulates the IV (independent variable) to measure the effect on the DV (dependent variable)
Natural Experiment	An experiment taking place in a natural setting, where the IV has occurred naturally rather than being manipulated by the researcher
Participant	A person who takes part in a psychological study
Practical Application	Making use of the research in some way in the real world
Reliability	Refers to the consistency of results or procedures
Research Study	A practical investigation into behaviour, usually to provide support for a theory
Sample	The term given for the group of people who take part in a psychology study
Social Desirability Bias	When participants act in a way they deem to be socially acceptable (usually rather than their natural behaviour)
Theory	An explanation of a given behaviour
Validity	Refers to whether something is true or legitimate

Well done! YOU DID IT!

We hope you enjoyed your Introduction to Psychology. We look forward to working with you in September.



If you have any questions or require further information please contact Miss Priestley at A.Priestley@theredhillacademy.org.uk