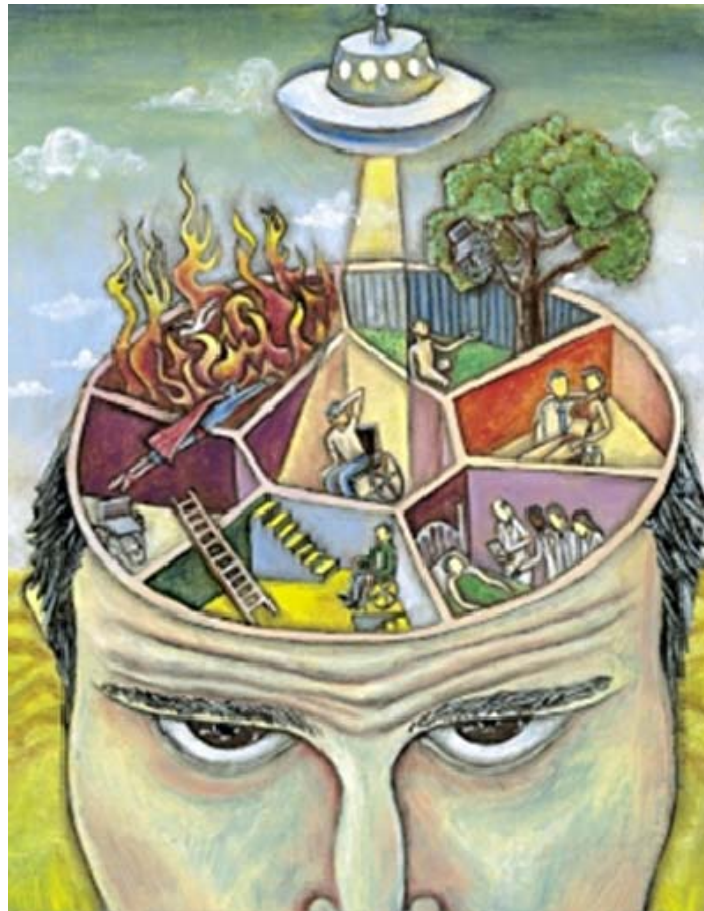


A-Level Psychology

Subject Handbook 2011-12



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Section One

OCR Psychology Qualification Overview

AS PSYCHOLOGY (Year 12)

Unit Code	Unit Title	Exam	Weighting
G541	<i>Psychological Investigations</i>	1 hr exam	30% of AS grade
G542	Core Studies	2 hr exam	70% of AS grade

AS Unit G541: Psychological Investigations

Candidates will need to be familiar with four techniques for collecting/analysing data. These are:

- Self-report;
- Experiment (repeated measures and independent measures, matched subjects design);
- Observation;
- Correlation.

Candidates will be required to answer questions relating to:

- An outline of an existing piece of research;
- The data produced by a piece of a research;
- An outline of a proposed piece of research.

Unit G542: Core Studies

- Fifteen core studies; three studies from each of the five approaches: social, cognitive, physiological, developmental and individual differences.
- Issues, debates, perspectives and methods arising from the studies.

A2 PSYCHOLOGY (Year 13)

Unit Code	Unit Title	Exam	Weighting
G543	Options in Applied Psychology: HEALTH	2 hrs	50% of A2 grade
G544	Approached and Research Methods in Psychology	1.5 hr exam	50% of A2 grade

A2 Unit G543: Options in Applied Psychology

This unit will include four options, from which candidates choose two.

- Forensic psychology.
- Health and clinical psychology.
- Psychology of sport and exercise.
- Psychology of education.

A2 Unit G544: Approaches and Research Methods in Psychology

- Research methodology, where candidates are required to design a practical project.
- Structured synoptic questions on approaches, perspectives, methods, issues and debates.

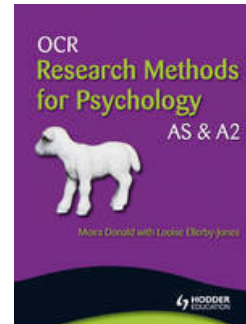
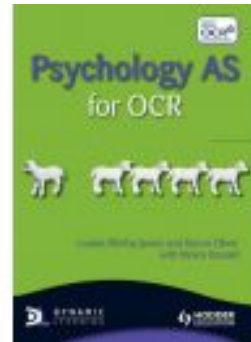
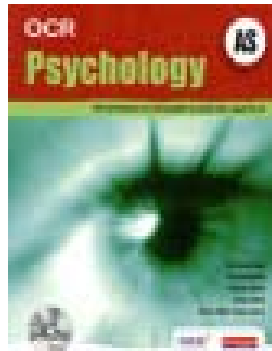
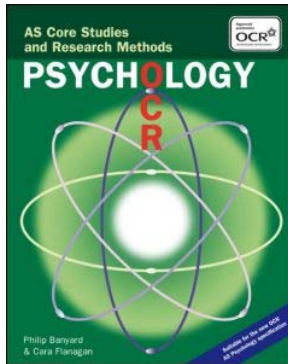
Section Two

Studying Psychology

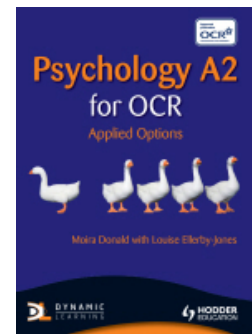
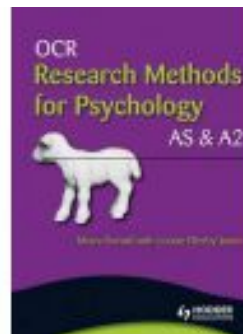
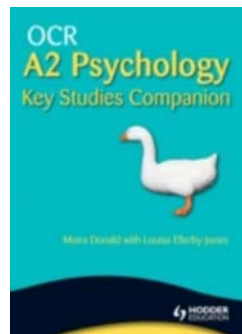
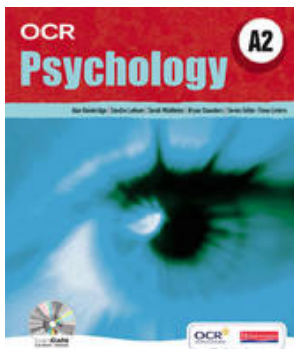
Psychology is a subject that involves extensive reading. Students who keep up with recent current events are able to impress the examiners and gain those crucial extra marks.

Standard texts:

Psychology For AS



Psychology For A2



Further reading

Further reading of the resources contained within the library must be carried out if you hope to gain that extra advantage over students. The library is well stocked and even contains Psychology Review, which has some great contemporary debates and exam tips in it.

Internet Resources

- www.ocr.org.uk
- www.psychblog.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/allinthemind/shtml
- www.youtube.com
- www.holah.karoo.net
- www.zimbardo.com
- <http://www.learner.org/discoveringpsychology/index.html>
- <http://www.bps.org.uk/>
- www.rcpsych.ac.uk
- <http://www.folensblogs.com/psychcompanion/blog/> Complete Companion blog
- <http://www.psychotron.org.uk>
- <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/alevel/psychology.html>
- <http://www.psychclips.co.uk/>
- <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/> To create your own podcasts

- <http://bps-research-digest.blogspot.com/> From the BPS
- http://www.download.com/Photo-Story-3-for-Windows/3000-12511_4-10339154.html# Photostory
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/case_study_20080528.shtml Little Hans and Kitty
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/law_in_action/7458536.stm# Elizabeth Loftus and Martin Conway on *Law in Action*
- <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/einsatz/polbat101.html> and this might be the book http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_ss_w_h_/203-87930137379967?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=browning+men+reserve Police Battalion101
- <http://opl.apa.org/Resources.aspx> excellent interactive activities

Section Three

OCR Psychology: Assessment Objectives

These are what the exam board are looking for when they mark your papers.

Assessment Objective 1: Knowledge and understanding of science and how science works.

You should be able to:

- Show you know about Psychology, and that you understand the studies and the research methods;
- Select, organise and communicate relevant information about psychology in different ways e.g. writing, graphs, images, verbally (although you won't need to talk during the exam!).

Assessment Objective 2: Application of knowledge and understanding of science and how science works

You should be able to:

- Analyse and evaluate (strengths and weaknesses) the core studies and research methods in Psychology;
- Apply your knowledge of Psychology to new situations, and suggest how you might carry out a psychological investigation;
- Assess the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information.

Assessment Objective 3: How science works.

You should be able to:

- Demonstrate and describe ethical, safe and skilful ways in which to use appropriate psychological research methods;
- Measure, record and communicate reliable and valid observations and measurements with precision, and accuracy when carrying out psychological research;
- Analyse, interpret, explain and evaluate the methods, results and the impact of your own psychological research and the research of others. You should be able to do this in a variety of ways.

Section Four

OCR Psychology: Grade Descriptors

A/B

AO1: You will demonstrate relevant, accurate and detailed knowledge of a range of psychological concepts, theories, studies, research methods, applications, principles and perspectives from the AS specification; how understanding of most principles and concepts from the AS specifications from the AS specification; select relevant information from the AS specification; organise and present information clearly, using psychological terminology in appropriate contexts.

AO2: You will apply principles and concepts in familiar and new context involving only a few steps in the argument; engage with the issue, using relevant analysis and evaluation of psychological theories, concepts, studies and research methods; describe significant trends and patterns shown by data presented in tabular or graphical form and interpret phenomena with few errors and present arguments and evaluations clearly; comment critically on statements, conclusions or data; successfully translate data presented as prose into diagrams, drawings, tables, or graphs from one form to another.

AO3: You will show sound knowledge and understanding of the principles of research design; comment effectively on strengths, limitations and ethical issues in research design; interpret and draw appropriate conclusions from data.

E/U

AO1: You will demonstrate basic knowledge of theories, concepts, studies and research methods from the AS specification; show basic understanding of some relevant information; present information, using basic psychological terminology from the AS specification.

AO2: You will apply a given principle to material presented in familiar or closely related context involving only a few steps in the argument; make some attempts to focus on the issue, showing a rudimentary analysis and evaluation of psychological theories, concepts, studies and research methods; describe some trends or patterns shown by data presented in tabular or graphical form; when directed, identify inconsistencies in conclusions or data; successfully translate data from one form to another in some contexts.

AO3: You will show basic knowledge and understanding of the principles of research design; comment on strengths, limitations and ethical issues in research design; interpret or draw conclusions from data.

Section Five

Humanities Faculty Expectations

Our expectations

Attendance & Punctuality

Psychologists at QK need to be self-disciplined. This includes their attendance and punctuality to lessons. You will be expected to attend every lesson on time. Students who miss MORE than one lesson over two weeks will receive contact home from the Head of Psychology, and set extra work for 'Friday Catch up'.

Students who miss lessons (for authorised reasons) should...

1. Speak to the teacher before the lesson if possible.
2. Complete all classwork missed, finding the teacher to ask for help if needed in their own time.
3. Make sure they know all homework and deadlines. These must also be caught up on.
4. Be up to speed BY THE NEXT LESSON.
5. Failure to do so will result in 'Friday Catch-up', and contact home.

Students who are more than five minutes late for a QK Psychology lesson, as per school policy, will not be admitted into class. The same protocol will be as above for each and every lesson. Studying Psychology requires a focus which cannot be disrupted by poor punctuality, or coming to class unprepared.

Commitment to Learning

A-Level QK students should be role models for those in the rest of the school. Therefore the QK Psychology department expects a full commitment from its students to their studies. Students who fail to show this mature attitude to learning can expect sanctions in compliance with the lower school behaviour policy. QK Sixth Form learners can expect detentions, Psychology report and/or referral to DOL for any inappropriate behaviour or action which may affect their, or others learning.

Psychology AS students are required to complete at least 6 hours a week of Psychological study outside of the classroom. This is a minimum amount as good Sociologists will take time to read around the topic as well as complete the homework expected. Students will complete, on average between the two modules, one exam question a week and one other piece of work (this can range from note-taking to a piece of extended writing). It is expected that after we complete work in class students will use their own time to go over sections they are still unsure on and consolidate their learning.

Students who fail to meet the homework standards set will be required to do so, in 'Friday Catch-up' in the Sixth form learning centre. Persistent non-compliance with either homework or behavioural expectations will result in departmental detention held by Mr Butler every Monday in L2A.

Across A-Level Psychology students will study a broad range of themes and periods. Therefore it is essential that students can organise their thoughts and resources to keep clarity in their work. In order to achieve this you must purchase a folder for each module and keep your learning organised. Students will be required to buy lined paper, pens and ring binders and bring these to EVERY lesson.

Your expectations

Teaching

The QK Psychology department recognises that all students learn in different ways and aims to incorporate these different learning styles into lessons at A-Level. However, in Year 13 students should be prepared to experience more research/writing based tasks to prepare them for possible entry into university degrees. Psychology teaching at A-Level is often discussion or debate focused. This means students should feel comfortable to discuss their own opinions or challenge the opinions of others. Teachers will use a variety of multimedia resources to aid learning as well as support from textbooks.

Assessment

The QK Psychology faculty policy requires students to be formally assessed every two weeks. This means that each student will be given formal feedback on a given task. This will often be in the form of an essay but could also be on other tasks such as from verbal presentations or pieces of source analysis. Feedback can also be peer assessment which is monitored by the teacher. Students will also be asked to self assess their work to show they can identify what successes and weaknesses are in their own work. Students will be given exam-style mark schemes with which to do this.

Students should receive two blue sticker assessments each half term and two green sticker assessments each term. The green sticker assessment will be your formal assessment for each term. Students who get two levels below their target grade in these assessments will be expected to redo the assessment and come up with a strategy to improve their performance with their teacher.

Psychology Skills

As mentioned in the introduction there are many different skills involved in studying Psychology. Psychology is not just about memorising psychologists and studies. Students who spend their time memorising will not score highly in tests as they have missed out the most important parts of becoming a Psychologist. The following list summarises a few of the key skills of Psychology A-Level and ways you might approach the study of them.

Reading and note taking

You will need to do independent study. This will not be directed by your teacher. It is for you to decide how best to spend your time, and about how you can learn most effectively. Use your knowledge of yourself, and the work you have done on learning to guide you. To get you started there are some suggestions below:

- **Read through your notes** and write down key words for each study/unit. Put your notes away and try and explain why you chose each word.
- **Create question and answer cards.** Write the question on one card and the answer on another. Mix them all up and then try to find the right pair.
- **Or write the answer on one side and the question on the other.** Try to answer all the questions, checking your answers as you go, or try to work out the question from the answer.
- **Use the recommended websites** and search them for more information about your subject.
- **Create a mind map.** Use different starting points each time e.g. title of the unit, strengths/weaknesses, key word/themes, name of key person. How much can you do without your notes? How much can you add once you have your notes in front of you?
- **Practice answering exam questions.** Use the exam board website (they usually publish past papers you can download for free). Do the exam questions with your notes. Do them without your notes and then check your answers.
- **Go to the library and read a book,** or relevant chapters of a book. Look in the index and find relevant pages. Open a book and start reading.
- **Take notes on what you have read.** Find interesting quotes.
- **Write down five things you want to know more about** from what you have read. Find the answers.
- **Find images** to represent key points/units/studies.

- **Organise your file-** make sure there is nothing missing.
- **Do any or all of the above with a friend.** Test yourself, and test each other.