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# St Mary's College

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY OCR H567  
Pre-course reading and guidance





# A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE PSYCHOLOGY?

- › The course introduces students to the theories and methods of Psychology. It offers them the opportunity to look at some of the explanations psychologists provide in trying to understand humans and their interactions with the world.
- › The course aims to develop both students' psychological skills and their psychological knowledge. Students study a variety of psychological research studies that represent the range of psychologists' interests and the methods they use. It involves interesting and varied content that will stimulate curiosity.

## WHAT IS THE COURSE STRUCTURE LIKE?

- › The course is a **two year** course. It consists of **three exams**, two of equal weighting (35%) and the third at 30%. All exams will be taken at the end of your second year.



# A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY (Year 12)

## **Component 1: Research Methods**

This component introduces and develops knowledge and understanding of the process of planning, conducting, analysing and reporting psychological research across a range of experimental and non-experimental methodologies and techniques.

It promotes an understanding of the methods of scientific enquiry used in empirical research and aims to develop relevant knowledge and skills for this process. It also encourages the acquisition of a range of evaluative concepts for reviewing and discussing the design and outcomes of research, and the application of such knowledge to the wider community, society and the economy.

Competency and confidence in a variety of mathematical procedures and problem-solving skills should also be gained through involvement with practical work associated with the concepts covered.

### **Pre-course reading**

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/research-methods.html> – general introduction to different areas of research methods



# A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY (Year 12)

## Exam Syllabus for Psychology

- › <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171732-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-psychology-h567.pdf>



# A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY (Year 12)

## Component 2: Psychological Themes Through Core Studies

Study of 20 Core Studies (both Classic and Contemporary) across 5 key areas of Psychology (Biological, Social, Developmental, Cognitive and Individual Differences)

› Assessed written exam: 2 hours 105 marks • 35% of A-level

Section A: Core studies - short answer questions (35 marks)

Section B: Areas, Perspectives and Debates - mix of short and extended questions (35 marks)

Section C: Practical Applications – mix of short and extended questions in relation to a given stimulus material (35 marks)

**TEXTS SUITABLE FOR PRE-READING – if you have amazon prime in your household there are a lot of prime reading books that are great background reading for psychology for free such as:**

Introducing Psychology: A Graphic Guide 4th ed. Edition, Kindle Edition by Nigel Benson

Introducing Freud: A Graphic Guide (Introducing...) by Richard Appignanesi and Oscar Zarate

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/social-psychology.html>



## Resources to develop your psychological knowledge:

- **[www.simplypsychology.org](http://www.simplypsychology.org)** – a website with a wealth of short and longer articles about many aspects of psychology – pick things that interest you and expand your understanding.
- **TED talks**– there are a range of excellent talks from TED that relate specifically to areas of psychology such as:  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/philip\\_zimbardo\\_the\\_psychology\\_of\\_evil](https://www.ted.com/talks/philip_zimbardo_the_psychology_of_evil) for starters, but there are hundreds of though provoking lectures.
- **Louis Theroux** has created a number of relevant and enriching documentaries relating to psychological concepts and theories, all of which are presently free to play on the BBC's iPlayer. 'America's Medicated Kids' and 'By Reason of Insanity' are definitely worth viewing.

# Any further questions?:



Contact details of lead teachers of Psychology:

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We look forward to meeting you in September and in the meantime if you have any questions relating to the course please don't hesitate to contact us.