Clitheroe Royal Grammar Sixth Form: Transition Pack

Welcome to the Psychology Department

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the Sixth Form.

This Transition Pack contains information to support your transition from GCSE to A Level study.

Please read all the documents ready to begin Year 12:

- Independent Learning in Psychology
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Psychology A Level
- Psychology Introductory Task

✓ **Read the Subject Information Sheet** which is available here: CRGS Sixth Form Subject Sheet - Psychology

✓ **Download the exam board specification** which is available here: AQA A Level Psychology

✓ **Read the section called 'Specification at a Glance'**, focusing on the A Level content.

✓ Some of these resources will become more useful when you have moved further through the course, such as the A Level specification, so store them where you can revisit them over the next 2 years.

✓ Don't worry if some of the work sounds challenging. A Level work is more difficult than GCSE work after all. Your teachers will be supporting you through this transition. Please talk to us if you are unsure about any aspect of the course.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Mrs S Whitlock (Head of Learning),
Mrs Hoyle
Miss Fox

Psychology A Level

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Is Psychology a science-based subject?
Yes, it is. In particular the biopsychology topic focuses on the nervous system, hormones and the function and structure of the brain. In addition to this you will need to get used to using scientific terminology.

Will I have to write essay answers?
The examinations have extended writing tasks. A good standard of written communication is required.

How much work outside of lessons will I be expected to do?
Four hours of independent study per week, reading over class notes and hand-outs and one hour of directed study time, completing a mix of structured or open-ended tasks.

What are research methods?
The basis of psychological research, study and theory. How psychologists study behaviour, gather data and interpret it in order to develop theories.

How much Maths is involved?
You will have to be able to interpret data and present it in a particular way. An understanding and analysis of what graphs are showing will also be needed. You will have to perform some mathematical calculations in the examination.

How many studies do we need to know for each topic?
This will depend on the focus of the question being asked in the exam. A variety of studies will be taught some of which are compulsory.

How can Psychology help me with my future career plans?
Because it is a study of human behaviour Psychology is a useful subject to have for a variety of careers especially those working with people.

Do I need GCSE Psychology?
No not at all, for the majority of students it is a new topic.

What shall I do if I miss a lesson?
If you miss any lessons, it is your responsibility to catch up. You must ask your teacher for the work you have missed. Likewise, if you lose any worksheets, it is your responsibility to obtain another copy from your teacher. Keep your folder up to date and fill any gaps in your work as soon as possible. Don't hesitate to talk your teacher if you think you are getting behind.

Is there any coursework?
No, the course is entirely exam-assessed.

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Psychology A Level
Introductory Task

One of the first topics we study in Psychology is called 'Approaches' – this entails considering behaviour and how to explain behaviour from many different perspectives. Psychologists tend to follow one perspective so we often see biological psychologists (obviously following the biological approach/perspective), psychodynamic psychologists (those following Freud) and so on. We will spend the first few months exploring these interesting perspectives but to start you off here is a task for you to do before you join the department.

WHY DID SIMON COMMIT THE CRIME?

Read through the following scenario

Simon was found guilty of assault. He came home to find his girlfriend with his best friend Tom in the lounge. He immediately became suspicious and acted in an aggressive way.

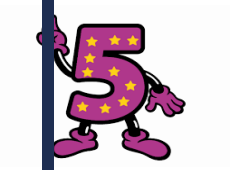
Immediately after walking in the lounge Simon shouted 'What's going on?' a big argument unfolded and Simon ended up pushing his girlfriend on to the sofa and punching Tom in the face.
During his statement given to the police, Simon had said that when he walked into the lounge his girlfriend and best friend were sat very close on the sofa and that in the past an old girlfriend had cheated on him, which means that he struggles trusting people.

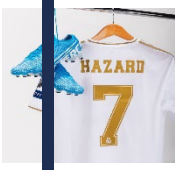
Simon is from a family of four, three brothers two older, and one his identical twin. Growing up they would often fight with each other. His mum and dad would often encourage it, as they felt that it was important that any disagreements that they had, should be sorted out between themselves, after all they are boys and need to be able to stick up for themselves. Of the four boys Simon's twin is the least aggressive and often tries to walk away from disagreements. At school Simon and his mates were often in trouble with teachers and reluctant to follow school rules. At least this gave Simon credibility amongst his mates, making him more popular.

Growing up Simon didn't have many aspirations, often thinking that he was never good enough. When Simon was twelve his father was arrested for GBH and sentenced to two years in prison. He would often visit his dad who he would often describe to others as his hero. During those two years Mum had to trust the boys to get on at home as she worked extra hours to bring in more money. During this time, Simon would spend most of his spare time playing on one of his consoles 'Call of Duty' being one of his favourites.

WHY DID SIMON COMMIT THE CRIME?

Write down as many reasons as you can **why** Simon might have committed the crime (7 boxes try 7 reasons!)





Stretch and challenge - Look at all of the reasons you have put forward (1-7)

Do they have anything in common? Is there something that has not been considered?