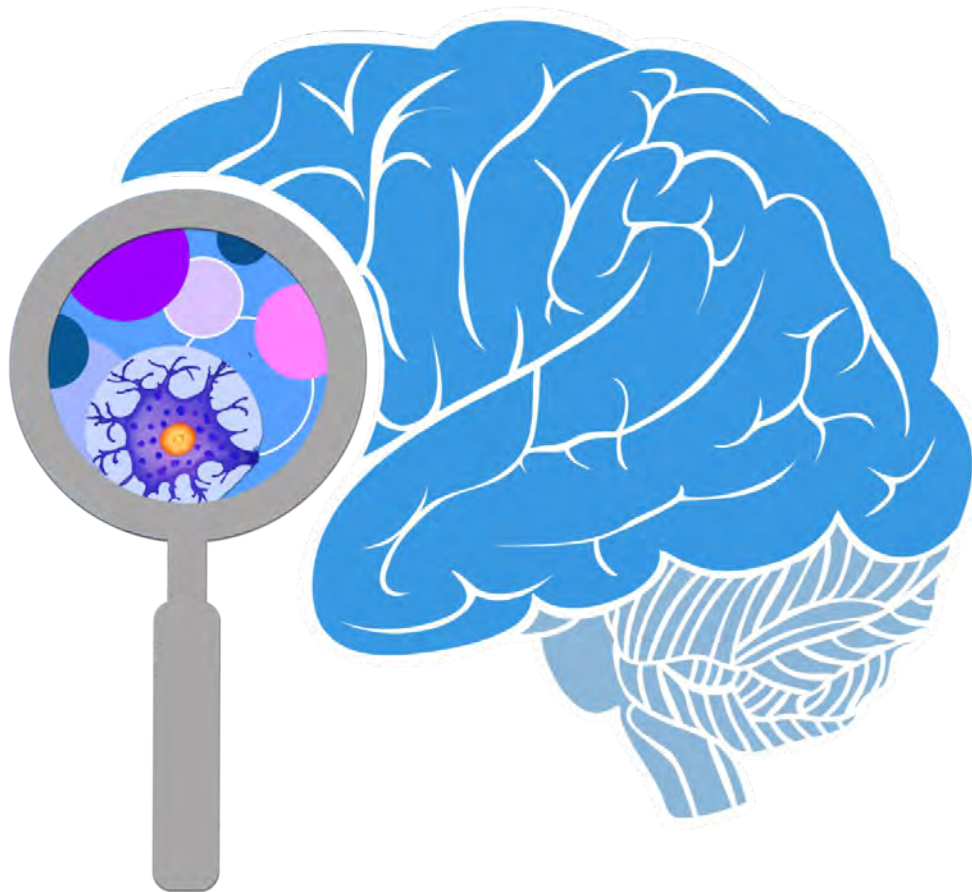




Coloma Sixth Form

Psychology



“A failure is not always a mistake, it may simply be the best one can do under the circumstances. The real mistake is to stop trying.”

B.F Skinner

Specification

At Coloma we use the AQA examination board, details of the course can be found here:-

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>

You can download a copy of the full specification here:-

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF>

Psychology is a diverse subject with broad appeal; to give you some idea of the material covered over the two years here are the main subject areas:-

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

What's assessed

Social Influence *focusing on conformity & obedience and how the presence of other people affects behaviour*

Memory *outlining models to explain how memory works and examining why we forget some things but remember others*

Attachment *understanding the importance of the relationship between an infant and their caregiver and the implications of this later in life*

Psychopathology *explanations and treatments of phobias, depression & OCD*

How is it assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- 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



What's assessed

Approaches *examining the different ways in which behaviour can be explained*

Biopsychology *focusing on the brain, nervous system and other aspects of human physiology and its affect on behaviour*

Research Methods *understanding how the scientific approach can be used to investigate human behaviour*

How is it assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- 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

What's assessed

Issues & Debates *using key debates to evaluate theories and studies*

Schizophrenia *using knowledge of different psychological theories to the explanation and treatment of schizophrenia*

Cognition & Development *understanding how children learn*

Forensic Psychology *applying psychological theory to the study of criminal behaviour*



How is it assessed

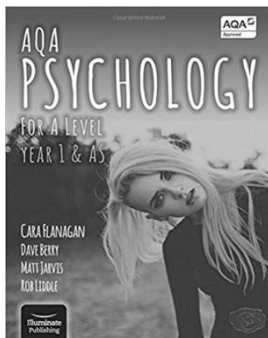
- written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
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- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks

Books & Resources

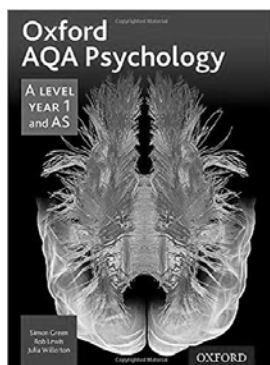
We will provide you with a login to a digital version of the Illuminate textbook (green haired girl book). You may also want to purchase your own text book for the course. As well as the Illuminate textbook the Oxford book covers the AQA specification in a greater level of detail and depth, however some students find it to be less accessible than the “Illuminate” book.



AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS - Student Book, by Flanagan, Berry, Jarvis & Liddle.

ISBN-13: 978-1908682406

**Class
Text**



Oxford AQA Psychology: A Level: Year 1 and AS, by Green, Lewis & Willerton.

ISBN-13: 978-1408527382

**Recommended
additional text**



Further reading

Relevant Links to Websites

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/>
<http://www.psychteacher.co.uk/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/>
<http://www.apa.org/>

The British Psychological Society (BPS)



The governing body for all things psychological from professional codes of practice and university programme accreditation. Have a look at the site to discover more about what being a psychologist is all about.

<https://www.bps.org.uk/>

The BPS produces a monthly summary of the latest research in Psychology. You can receive a free email with this digest by registering your details using the link below. You may choose to follow the BPS on Twitter or Facebook too.

<https://digest.bps.org.uk/>

Psychology Talks / Videos



1. Psychology Myths

https://www.ted.com/talks/ben_ambridge_10_myths_about_psychology_debunked

2. Delayed gratification

https://www.ted.com/talks/joachim_de_posada_says_don_t_eat_the_marshmallow_yet

3. Visual Illusions and what they tell us about the brain

https://www.ted.com/talks/al_seckel_says_our_brains_are_mis_wired

The 'Crash Course' psychology YouTube videos are also useful, you might want to have a look at them to get a feel for some of the areas in psychology that are of interest to you.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOPRKzVLY0jY-uHOH9KVU6>





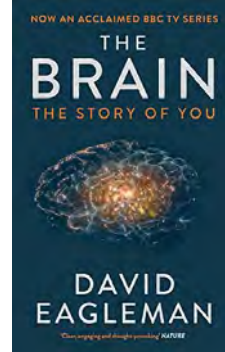
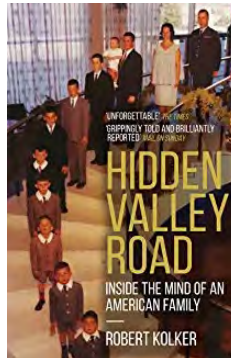
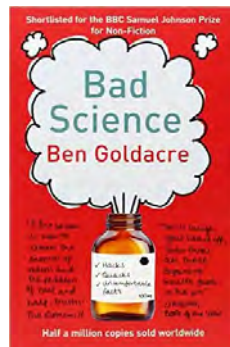
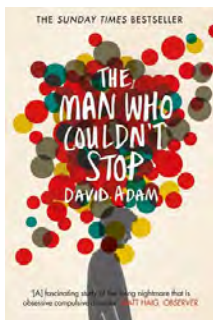
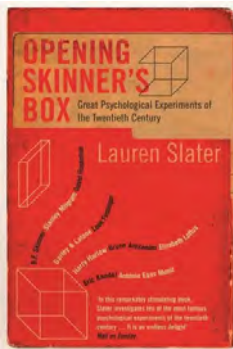
The Radio 4 series “All in the Mind” tackles some very topical areas in psychology, you can access them here:-

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxx9/episodes/player?page=1>

The series “Mind Changers” also looks at some important Psychologists and their contribution to the subject, This can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008cy1j>

Other ideas



Viewing suggestions (most of these are available on Netflix/iplayer)



Psychology Summer Project

Psychology is not a passive subject, it is going on around you all of the time, from the interactions you experience on a daily basis through to research that informs our understanding of human behaviour and guides policy makers.

To get the most out of the subject you need to engage in a broader appreciation of the discipline both in the media and by reading around the subject. Keep a record of any psychological news or information that you come across over the summer, this link will help get an idea for what to look for <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-39780544>.

It is important to be critical of what you read, is the information from a credible source? What is the main message being communicated? How is the information presented, is it a fair view? Is there a counter position / argument that might be relevant?



OpenLearn | Free learning from
The Open University

There are many free online courses which will help you gain a better understanding of Psychology.

Complete the free Open University course **Starting with Psychology** (link below) before September

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/psychology/starting-psychology/content-section-1>



