

Preparing to Study at A-Level

Work for PSYCHOLOGY

Below you will find 5 weeks preparation work (around 10 hrs) for your Level 3 course and an Enrolment Task (2 hrs). You will need to do the same for your other two subjects. The final enrolment task must be submitted to Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk by Monday 12th July.

Exam Board: AQA

You can find the course specification here:

[A-level Psychology Specification \(aqa.org.uk\)](http://aqa.org.uk)

Research Tasks and Wider Reading:

Wider Reading:

- Sacks, O. (2011). The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat
- Ridley, M. (2004). Nature via Nurture: Genes, experience and what makes us human
- Pinker, S. (1995). The Language Instinct: The New Science of Language and Mind
- Greenfield, S. (2002). The Private Life of the Brain
- Goldacre, B. (2009). Bad Science
- Dennett, D.C. (1993). Consciousness Explained
- Bentall, R. & Beck. A.T. (2004). Madness Explained: Psychosis and Human Nature
- Ramachandran, V.S. & Blakeslee S. (1999). Phantoms in the Brain: Human Nature and the Architecture of the Mind

Introductory Psychology Textbooks:

- Gross, R.D. (2005). Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behaviour
- Hayes, N. (2000). Foundations of Psychology: An Introductory Text
- Hewstone M., Fincham F. and Foster J. (2005). Psychology

THE PSYCHOLOGIST: A monthly publication of The British Psychological Society. Back issues are freely available on its archive at <http://www.thepsychologist.org.uk>. Also see the BPS Research Digest at <https://digest.bps.org.uk/>.

Useful Journals to Read

NATURE, SCIENCE, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN and the NEW SCIENTIST are journals in which several articles on psychology topics feature. Back copies of the Scientific American contain useful articles on a wide range of scientific topics and there are several collected volumes of published articles.

Activities:

Task 1

The British Psychological Society (BPS) have produced an [interactive timeline](#) with pictures and links. This timeline is focused more on the theoretical landmarks that shaped psychology as a discipline.

Scroll (horizontally) through this timeline and read the description for each landmark (by clicking on the arrow, then click on find out more). Choose **one** you find most interesting **from each** of the grouped time periods (e.g. 1840-1859) and design some multiple-choice questions that would test knowledge of a friend.

Task 2

Watch the hyperlinked clips and make notes:

1. A three-minute introduction to [Descartes](#). (Note: This clip contains swear words.)
 2. Three minutes on [John Locke](#). (Note: This clip contains swear words.)
 3. Mark Steel's irreverent documentary on the work of [Darwin](#).
 4. [Debate](#) between undergraduate students about whether psychology is a science.
 5. Lecture on [Wundt's work](#).
 6. [What is psychology?](#)
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Task 3

1. Research the work of *Sir Frederic C. Bartlett* on 'remembering'. Design a 4-page pamphlet (with text and appropriate images) about his work. Make specific and detailed reference to the **methods** he used to study 'remembering'.
 2. Research the work of *Donald Broadbent* on 'attention'. Making use of information on Broadbent's 'filter model of attention', create a knowledge organiser describing his research. Make specific and detailed reference to the **dichotic listening test**.
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Task 4

Study this detailed [timeline of the origins of psychology](#).

The timeline gives you an opportunity to find out about key developments within scientific psychology such as the establishment of the Advanced Psychology Unit (APU) – now the Cognition and Brain Science Unit – in Cambridge.

To follow up some of the pioneering research at various points in history that was undertaken there, watch the **nine** videos at <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/history/video/>

Choose any three videos and write a short magazine article which gives a brief overview of the pioneering research being described in **each** video. Use your skills from GCSE English as you are 'writing to [inform](#) and [explain](#)' (non-fiction). NB: You may need to carry out additional research if there are aspects you are struggling to get across from just watching the videos.

Task 5

1. This link ([Gene watch](#)) provides an in-depth explanation of heritability and the use of twin studies in scientific research. Carefully read the information. Create a set of *Cornell notes* on the information you have read.
2. This link contains commentary on [heritability versus environment](#) as applied to topics such as schizophrenia and personality disorders. Carefully read the information. Create a *knowledge organiser* (Mind map) for **each** of the sections on twin studies, adoption studies, and family studies.

Enrolment Task (This task must be sent to Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk):

Essay 1 (500-700 words, handwritten)

Discuss how and why biology is important for the understanding of psychology.

Make specific reference to the **biological approach** in psychology, **genes**, **biological structures**, **neurochemistry**, **genotype**, **phenotype**, and the work of **Darwin** on **evolution**.

Essay 2 (500-700 words, handwritten)

Discuss Wilhelm Wundt's contributions to the origins of psychology as a science.

Make specific reference to Wundt's work on **structuralism**, including **sensation**, **perception** and **introspection**. You must also consider what key features made his work **scientific**.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr B Kuwar bkuwar@stratfordschool.co.uk