

Reaching your potential in GCSE Psychology

GCSE Psychology Exams

Paper 1: 19th May PM (Fri)

Paper 2: 26th May PM (Fri)

Research Methods is assessed within all topics.

What will my child be expected to know for the GCSE exam? The specification at a glance is below, however more detailed subject specifications are available at:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182>

Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour	Paper 2: Social context and behaviour
<p>Memory: The process & structures of memory and memory as an active process. [Key studies: Bartlett and Murdock]</p> <p>Perception: Differences between sensation and perception, visual cues and illusions, Gregory and Gibson's theories and factors affecting perception. [Key Studies: Bruner & Minturn and Gilchrist & Nesberg]</p> <p>Development: Early brain development, Piaget's theory (application to education) and the effects of learning on development [Key studies: Hughes' and McGarrigle & Donaldson]</p> <p>Research methods: Forming hypotheses, variables, sampling methods, methods of conducting research, correlations, research procedures, experimental designs, types of data, ethics, data handling (calculating mean, median and mode), drawing and interpreting graphs and data tables.</p>	<p>Social influence: Conformity, obedience, prosocial behaviour and crowd and collective behaviour. [Key studies: Asch and Piliavin]</p> <p>Language, thought and communication: Theories of language development and their effects, the differences between human and animal communication, non-verbal communication and explanations. [Key studies: Von Frisch and Yuki]</p> <p>Brain and neuropsychology: The structure of the nervous system, neurons and the brain. An introduction to neuropsychology and cognitive neuroscience. [Key studies: Tulving and Penfield]</p> <p>Psychological problems: An introduction to mental health (including the effects on the individual and society). The characteristics, explanations and treatments for depression and addiction. [Key studies: Kaij and Wiles].</p>

Students also have 'checklists' within their exercise books with a breakdown of key content for each topic.

How can my child ensure that they are revising in a meaningful way?

- **Purchase a revision guide** – they are £5 and can be paid for via Parent Pay on the school website. The school offered and recommended one is: *AQA GCSE 9-1 Psychology All-in-One Revision and Practice by Collins*.
- **Purchase the textbook (particularly, useful to aid hitting the higher grades):** *Psychology for AQA GCSE 9-1 by oxford or illuminate publishing*. Note this is not available to purchase through school but easily found via Amazon etc
- **Attend timetabled revision sessions (Monday 3-4pm).**
- **Learn key terms for each topic/key studies** – create flashcards with a key term on one side, the definition on the other. Ensure you are confident in outlining each key study, including the research methods used, the aim, method, results and conclusion.
- **Create a 'Knowledge Board'** for each topic – this could include key information, terms, studies and theories as well as evaluation.
- Make use of the resources uploaded to **Show My Homework**.
- Break the content into chunks and try to revise for less time but more frequently. (e.g: rather than revising Psychology for 2 hours in one go and then not again for a month, try doing 30 minutes every week- you will retain more information and the risk of burnout is lowered). This is an example, though students should personalise:

January							
20-30 minutes slots	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 1	Psychology: development				Psychology: memory		
Week 2	Psychology: Social influence				Psychology: Psychological problems		
Week 3	Psychology: Perception				Psychology: LTC		
Week 4	Psychology: Research methods				Psychology: Brain & neuro		

What could they do ensure they know how to 'apply' this information?

- **Plan and writing exam questions on a regular basis** (especially 9 mark and applied questions).
- **Create a 'success criteria' for each type of question** (AO1, AO2 and AO3).
- Utilise the **past papers** from the AQA website and use the mark schemes to self-assess your own work.

Useful Websites:

- www.getrevising.co.uk
- <http://www.gojimo.com/gcse-psychology-revision/>
- <https://illuminate.digital/aqapsychgcse/>