



Preparation for Year 12



Psychology

Congratulations on your GCSE successes and welcome to your post-16 studies at All Saints!

At this significant moment in your education, you have selected to study courses that reflect your own unique gifts, talents, interests and future goals.

So let's get started! These tasks are designed to introduce you to some concepts that you will be exploring over the year ahead as well as giving you the opportunity to demonstrate your commitment and sincere interest in this subject.

We look forward to seeing your preparation work and welcoming you to our department in September.

Aims	<i>A positive way of demonstrating your commitment and passion for Psychology and to prepare you for the first topics in Year 12.</i>
Deadline for submission	Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Choose **TWO** tasks to complete from the following list:

Week	Task / question	Links to help you	Notes
1	You have probably heard of terms such as "Mental Illness". But now you need to research two psychological disorders of your choosing (use the website to help you). - Outline the characteristics/behaviours of this disorder. - Outline any explanations of this disorder.	https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-disorders	
2	Approaches - There are 6 main approaches we study in Psychology. Choose two of the below to write some summary notes on (half a page to a full page): Biological	https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-approaches.html https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/psychology	



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	• Behaviourism • Social Learning Theory • Cognitive • Psychodynamic • Humanistic	/approaches-in-psychology/	
3	Watch some clips of Derren Brown. For example his TED talk on Mind Reading. Write some notes on what he discusses and how you think these 'mind readers' actually do it.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IFa0tqHrwE	
4	Define what is meant by the term "Ethical Issues" in Psychology. Then research one of the following studies that are classed as unethical in Psychology: • Asch - Conformity • Zimbardo - Stanford Prison Experiment • Milgram - Obedience Study • David Reimer Case • The Monster study (1939)		

Keywords and definitions:

You will need to be familiar with the following keywords in term 1.

Keyword	Definition	Use of keyword within context
Classical Conditioning	Learning by association. Occurs when two stimuli are repeatedly paired together (UCS + NS). NS eventually produces the same response that was first produced by the UCS.	Psychologists argue that you can develop a phobia through classical conditioning; if you associate the phobic stimulus with something negative.
Operant Conditioning	A form of learning in which behaviour is shaped and maintained by its consequences. Possible consequences of behaviour include reinforcement (+ or -) and punishment.	If a child is naughty then a parent could use operant conditioning to try and make sure they do not repeat the behaviour. For example, they could take away their toys as punishment.
Vicarious Reinforcement	Reinforcement which is not directly experienced but occurs	A child learns to look before crossing the road as



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	through observing someone else being reinforced for a behaviour. This is a key factor in imitation.	they have observed their parents do this and cross the road safely through vicarious reinforcement.
Inference	The process whereby cognitive psychologists draw conclusions about the way mental processes operate on the basis of observed behaviour.	Cognitive psychologists will make inferences on what an individual is thinking if they see a stimulus of a dog approaching a person, and that person then proceeds to scream and run away.
Schema	A mental framework of beliefs and expectations that influence cognitive processing. They are developed from experience.	Every person has a schema for everything they know. This can be a schema for something like what a Zebra is or even something fictional like a Zombie.
Genotype	The particular set of genes that a person possesses.	A person's metabolic rate and height can be seen as genetic so can be seen as their genotype.
Phenotype	The characteristics of an individual are determined by both genes and the environment.	A person's weight however is seen as their phenotype as although they have a certain metabolic rate and height; environmental factors such as diet can impact their weight.
Self Actualisation	The desire to grow psychologically and fulfil one's full potential - becoming what you are capable of.	Humanistic psychologists argue that we all should strive for self-actualisation as we are then fulfilling our capabilities and lives.
Displacement	A type of defence mechanism in the psychodynamic approach. Involves transferring feelings from the true source of distressing emotion onto a substitute target.	If a teacher tells you off but you don't argue back in fear of getting detention. You may end up shouting at your little sister when you get home in anger - this is displacement.