

**Subject:** *Psychology*

**Exam Board:** *AQA*



Welcome to A-level Psychology. We are delighted that you are considering this A-level as an option in Year 12 and 13. To demonstrate your commitment to the course and to prepare you for September, you must complete the following tasks to the best of your ability. These tasks are compulsory and must be completed within the deadlines set.

We expect you spend at least 3-4 hours completing the tasks outlined in this pack. The activities have been designed to help you begin to develop some of the key skills and understanding you will need for A-level Psychology.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Understand some research methods used by Psychologists
- Conduct and write up a psychological investigation including the collection and analysis of data
- Discuss the different approaches within psychology.

### **Contacts for Support:**

- Mrs George – george@tahs.net, use chat on Teams or visit room S3.
- Mrs Dodd – dodd@tahs.net, use chat on Teams or visit room S6.

## *What is A level Psychology?*



Many people when they hear the word psychology think of mental illness and abnormal behaviour. But psychologists are not concerned with extreme case of human behaviour, they also investigate very ordinary behaviour such as child rearing, memory, how to make friends, sleeping and dreaming.

Psychology can therefore be defined as the scientific study of human behaviour and experience. Psychology aims to describe, explain, predict and modify behaviour. Psychology is a fascinating subject not least because it's about you and me and everyone around us.

It could be suggested that each of us in our own unique way is a psychologist because we all try to explain the behaviour of other people. The A-level Psychology course asks a range of questions about human behaviour:

- Why do we think in the ways that we do?
- Why do we feel in the ways that we do?
- Why do we act in the ways that we do?
- What are the different techniques that psychologists have used to study our thinking, feeling and action?

## Careers you can consider with Psychology:



Career possibilities directly relating to Psychology include being a psychologist, psychotherapist, social worker, counsellor, human resource manager, researcher and working in media, advertising or public relations. Psychology students are good all-rounders. They tend to be inquisitive and analytical, and are happy tackling both 'big picture' issues and fine detail. They typically have good social skills and are comfortable dealing with others. To explore more about specific Psychology careers please look at the British Psychological Society website at <https://careers.bps.org.uk/>

## Skills you will have learnt upon completion of Psychology A level:

- Communication skills
- Research skills
- Data collection and analysis skills
- Problem solving skills
- Essay writing skills
- Report writing skills
- Interpreting and evaluating events, information and ideas
- Time management and organisation skills
- Applying theory to real world scenarios
- Understanding and open mindedness



## Overview of transition lessons:

*Lesson 1:* Introduction to Psychology A level and research methods used in Psychology.

*Lesson 2:* Putting it into Practice: The Matching Hypothesis Investigation

## Bridging work tasks to be completed:

ACTIVITY		Hand in	Done
ONE	<p>Write up of your matching hypothesis investigation</p> <p>Available on the Bridging Work Team (click on assignments)</p>	Complete on TEAMS before July 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2023	
TWO	<p>Teams quiz: Online support in Psychology</p> <p>Available on the Bridging Work Team (click on assignments)</p> <p>Use the "Links for Starting A Level Psychology" document on the Bridging Work Team.</p>	Complete on TEAMS before September 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	
THREE	<p>Register for Seneca and complete the first assignment – Introduction to Psychology A level</p> <p>Go to <a href="https://www.senecalearning.com">senecalearning.com</a> and use the class code: <b>v4drmhu16a</b> or use the link below:</p> <p><a href="https://app.senecalearning.com/dashboard/class/v4drmhu16a/assignments/assignment/67131073-a12f-407e-891e-bd0d493444e5">https://app.senecalearning.com/dashboard/class/v4drmhu16a/assignments/assignment/67131073-a12f-407e-891e-bd0d493444e5</a></p>	Complete online (Seneca) before September 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	
FOUR	<p>Complete OU open learn course "<b>Starting with Psychology</b>".</p> <p>See the activities and notes in this booklet. Get your certificate of participation</p>	Copy of OU Certificate handed in class in your first lesson with Mrs George in September	
FIVE	<p>Complete the Maths Skills in Psychology tasks.</p> <p>These can be found in this booklet. Put your answers on the Answer Record Sheet (the back page of this booklet).</p>	Hand in the answer record sheet in your first lesson with Mrs George in September	



## ACTIVITY FOUR: Task 1

Watch the following two clips about different approaches in psychology. Make some notes on key points.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Os1C000qxY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M>



## ACTIVITY FOUR: Task 2

Complete OU open learn course “**Starting with Psychology**”. You will need to hand in your certificate of participation in your first lesson with Mrs George.

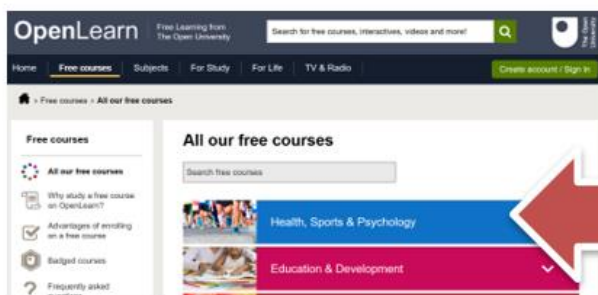
As we have seen in the videos above different psychologists use different explanations of behaviour but they also look at a vast range of topics and behaviours. In order to get a flavour of the range of things that psychologists might explore have a look at this free introductory course in Psychology from the Open University.



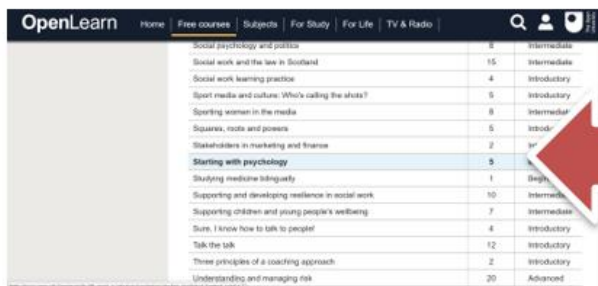
Please see the instructions below to find the right course.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

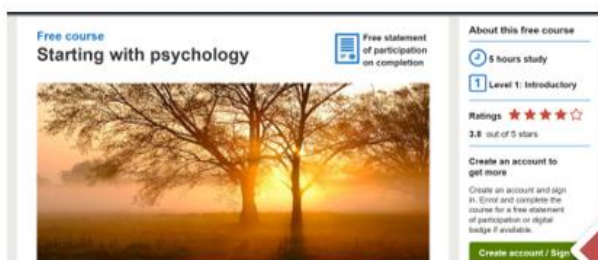
If you register with the OU you will be able to save your progress, making it easier to complete the course on different days and you will get your certificate of completion emailed to you.



Click on the Health, Sports & Psychology section.



Scroll down to the Starting with Psychology course (hint: they are in alphabetical order)



Register for an OU account so your progress will be saved and you get a participation certificate.





## ACTIVITY FIVE

# Maths Skills in Psychology

## Why are we doing Maths in Psychology?

Psychology is a science and as a result of their investigations psychologists collect a lot of data. It is important you know how to analyse and interpret this data.

Look at these extracts from the AQA A-level specification:

### 4.2.3.2 Data handling and analysis

- Quantitative and qualitative data; the distinction between qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques.
- Primary and secondary data, including meta-analysis.
- Descriptive statistics: measures of central tendency – mean, median, mode; calculation of mean, median and mode; measures of dispersion; range and standard deviation; calculation of range; calculation of percentages; positive, negative and zero correlations.

Here you can see the phrase **"calculation of"** – this is where you could be asked to do some sums in your

- Presentation and display of quantitative data: graphs, tables, scattergrams, bar charts, histograms.
- Distributions: normal and skewed distributions; characteristics of normal and skewed distributions.
- Analysis and interpretation of correlation, including correlation coefficients.
- Levels of measurement: nominal, ordinal and interval.
- Content analysis and coding. Thematic analysis.

Here you can see the phrase **"presentation and display of"** – this is where you could be asked to do draw or interpret graphs in your

Don't worry about the other terms and concepts on this list yet – we will be going through these in your psychology lessons.



**ACTIVITY FIVE: Task 1**

Complete the table below

	Definition or explanation of how to calculate the...
Mean	
Median	
Mode	
Range	

**ACTIVITY FIVE: Task 2**



Read the descriptions of the psychological research in the questions below. Make sure you read each scenario and each question carefully.

Complete the Maths skills questions. Put your answers on the answer record sheet at the back of this booklet. Have this answer sheet ready to hand in to your first Psychology lesson with Mrs George.

**Transfer your answers carefully to the answer record sheet at the end of this unit.**

### Question 1

A psychologist wondered if we were better at learning words or pictures. He gave 5 participants a list of 20 words to learn and 5 different people a set of 20 pictures to learn.

He put his data in the table below:

Learning a list of 20 words		Learning a set of 20 pictures	
Participant Number	Score (out of 20)	Participant Number	Score (out of 20)
1	18	1	12
2	14	2	11
3	18	3	12
4	16	4	14
5	18	5	10

Work out

- mean score for participants who learnt a list of 20 words.
- median score for participants who learnt a set of 20 pictures.
- mode for both groups
- range for both groups
- Do people have better memories for words or pictures? Explain your answer

### Question 2

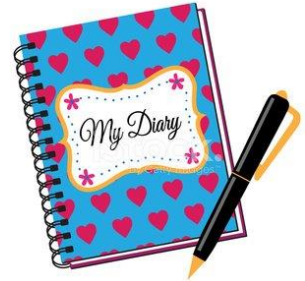
Another psychologist was interested in memory but more about the memories we make of our own lives. He asked 20 students to keep a diary for 6 weeks. They had to write at least a paragraph each day before they went to bed but what they wrote about was up to the student.

At the end of the 6 weeks the diaries were handed to the psychologist and he found 17 students had completed the diaries each day and 3 hadn't. 7 of the students had mostly described the activities they had done during the day. 6 students had mostly talked about their emotions during the day. The remaining students had written combinations of both. In 3 diaries the students had described what they had had to eat during the day.



Work out what percentage of students

- (a) completed the diaries each day
- (b) described mostly their emotions
- (c) had described their food
- (d) had described both emotions and activities.



### Question 3

A team of psychologists were interested in whether posting more pictures of yourself on social media made you more attractive to others.

They got some pictures of three adults who they considered to be the same level of attractiveness and made up fake social media profiles for them. Profile 1 showed 1 picture of the person, profile 2 showed 10 pictures of the person and profile 3 showed 30 pictures of the person. They then got other people to look at the profiles and rate the person for attractiveness out of 10 where 1 is not at all attractive and 10 is extremely attractive.

Their results are shown in the table on the next page

- (a) Why might the mean not be the best average to use for the data for profile 1?
- (b) Work out the median rating for all three profiles
- (c) Work out the range for all three profiles
- (d) Does having more pictures on their profile make someone more attractive?  
Explain your answer

Data table for question 3

Participant number	Attractiveness Rating out of 10 for Profile 1	Attractiveness Rating out of 10 for Profile 2	Attractiveness Rating out of 10 for Profile 3
1	4	8	5
2	3	7	6
3	2	8	4
4	3	5	5
5	10	9	7
6	2	4	6
7	1	8	3
8	4	6	4
9	3	7	4
10	4	9	5

Question 4

A psychologist wondered if where you ate influenced what you ate. She counted the number of people who had a cake with a hot drink in a posh coffee shop versus a local café.



Location	Did have cake	Did not have cake
Posh coffee shop	16	3
Local cafe	4	12

- What percentage of the total people observed had cake?
- What percentage of the posh coffee shop customers did not have cake?
- What percentage of the local café customers did not have cake?
- Are people more likely to buy cake in a posh coffee shop or in a local cafe?

## Question 5

A group of psychology students observed misbehaviour in lower school lessons across the school day. They recorded the number of pupils in each lesson who were disobedient such as talking, using their phone, not doing their work at least once during the hour long lesson.

Period	Number of pupils who misbehaved in the lesson
1	2
2	5
3	5
4	6
5	4

Work out

- the range for the number of pupils who misbehave in a lesson
- the mean number of pupils who misbehave in a lesson
- the mode for the number of pupils who misbehave in a lesson
- Why is the mode a better average in this study? Explain your answer





## ACTIVITY FIVE: Maths Skills in Psychology: Answer Record Sheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

	Question	YOUR ANSWER
1 (a)	mean score for participants who learnt a list of 20 words:	
(b)	median score for participants who learnt 20 pictures:	
(c)	Mode for words	
	Mode for pictures	
(d)	Range for words	
	Range for pictures	
(e)	Do people have better memories for word or pictures? Explain your answer	
2 (a)	completed the diaries each day	%
(b)	described mostly their emotions	%
(c)	had described their food	%
(d)	had described both emotions and activities.	%
3 (a)	Why might the mean not be the best average to use for the data for profile 1?	
(b)	Work out the median rating for all three profiles	1
		2
		3
(c)	Work of the range for all three profiles	1
		2
		3
(d)	Does having more pictures on their profile make someone more attractive?	
4 (a)	What % of the total people observed had cake?	%
(b)	What % of the posh coffee shop customers did not have cake?	%
(c)	What percentage of the local café customers did not have cake?	%
(d)	Are people more likely to by cake in a posh coffee shop or in a local cafe?	
5 (a)	the range for the number of pupils who misbehave in a lesson	
(b)	the mean number of pupils who misbehave in a lesson	
(c)	the mode for the number of pupils who misbehave in a lesson	
(d)	Why is the mode a better average in this study?	