

Preparing to Study: A-Level Psychology

Psychology is ‘the scientific study of mind and behaviour’. It is a popular course choice in Further and Higher Education; owing to its breadth of study, human interest, and far-reaching implications. It enjoys support from a diverse range of employers who value the requisite skills set and high level of academic rigour.

Content	Memory Early Social Development Social Influence Abnormality Biopsychology Relationships Forensic Psychology Schizophrenia Research Methods
Assessment	100% examination
Prospects	Careers in Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Teaching, Lecturing, Research, Sport Psychology, Psychotherapy, Counselling, Health professions, Public Relations, Human Resources, Management.

Sample task: Origins of Racism

The blue eyes/brown eyes experiment – Elliott (1968)

- Read / watch the account of ‘A Class Divided’ (*link below*).
- Briefly summarise research aims, methods and findings in your own words.
- Consider wider implications of the research (word limit = 300 words)

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/introduction-2/>

Reading Material

The following is a list of wider literature with a Psychological basis:

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat (and Other Clinical Tales)

by Oliver Sacks

The Paradox of Choice: Why More Is Less

by Barry Schwartz

The Invisible Gorilla: And Other Ways Our Intuitions Deceive Us

by Christopher Chabris, Daniel Simons

The Mismeasure of Man

by Stephen Jay Gould

Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions

Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me):

Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad Decisions, and Hurtful Acts

by Carol Tavris, Elliot Aronson

Opening Skinner's Box:

Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century

by Lauren Slater

N.B. A number of these titles are the subject of documentaries and / or audio recordings that are freely available online.

Useful Websites

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

The British Psychological Society's free Research Digest is also available to follow on a number of social media platforms.

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/>

A collection of study guides for further exploration of topics.

<https://www.samuelthomasdavies.com/best-podcasts/psychology/>

Direct link to popular Psychology podcasts.

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

Direct link to the British Psychological Society's careers guide.