



Psychology A Level Transition

Booklet 2026-7

“The science of mind and behaviour”



Name:

Exam Board: AQA

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/a-level/psychology-7182/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

Assessment: 3 x 2 hour exams at the end of Y13

GCSE Link	Maths, Biology, English, Sociology
Skills	Literacy, Essay writing, comprehension, analytic skills, numeracy, problem solving

Wider Reading	● Thinking Fast and Slow - Daniel Kahneman ● The Psychopath Test: A Journey through the Madness Industry – Jon Ronson ● Bad Science - Ben Goldacre ● Why we sleep - Dan Walker ● Atomic Habits - James Clear ● Why has no-one told me this before? Dr Julie Smith ● Surrounded by idiots - Thomas Erikson
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Why do you want to study Psychology as an A Level?

What do you find most interesting about Psychology?

What will I be learning?

Y12	Y13
1. Social Influence Why do individuals obey some people and not others? 2. Approaches Why do we have different ways of explaining behaviour? 3. Attachment What happens if we don't form an attachment? 4. Clinical How do we decide if someone is psychologically 'abnormal'? 5. Memory Why do we forget? 6. Research Methods How do Psychologists conduct research?	1. Biopsychology How does our biology influence our behaviour? 2. Gender What is the difference between sex and gender? 3. Schizophrenia How can we explain schizophrenia? 4. Forensic Psychology How can we deal with offenders? 5. Research Methods How can we use maths to help us understand behaviour? 6. Issues and Debates How does gender and culture impact Psychology?

Task 1 - Approaches:

Psychology consists of several different approaches and each approach views behaviour in a different way. The main approaches you will learn about are Biological, Cognitive, Behavioural, Humanistic and Psychodynamic.

Research these areas of psychology and make brief notes about them in the boxes below. Things to consider in your research are:

- What influences behaviour according to this approach?
- What theories of behaviour are involved?
- What famous studies are there from this approach?
- What kind of behaviour might it look at?
- What research methods does this approach tend to use?

Cognitive

Biological

Behavioural

Humanistic

Psychodynamic

Task 2 - Psychological Methods

- You will need to know about several different research methods and how they are used in psychology.
- You will be expected to be able to identify methods used in studies, describe the methods and explain strengths and weaknesses of the methods.
- Please research these methods and answer the questions about them

Laboratory experiments

What are the key features of a lab experiment? (e.g. where do they take place? What is controlled?)

What is an independent variable?

What is a dependent variable?

Field experiments

What are the key features of a field experiment? (e.g. where do they take place? What variable do they have?)

Why might field experiments be a BETTER method than laboratory experiments?

Why might laboratory experiments be better than field experiments?

Task 3 - Maths in Psychology

10% of the A Level will test mathematical skills

Convert to a decimal:

1. $\frac{1}{2}$
2. $\frac{3}{40}$
3. 65%
4. 153%
5. 51.6%
6. 41%

Convert to a fraction, reduced to its simplest form:

1. 0.2
2. 0.62
3. 90%

Convert to a percentage:

1. 0.87

2. 2.11
3. 0.017
4. 2.92
5. $\frac{9}{10}$

Measures of Central Tendency:

Find the mean of the data given below.

6 6 1 2 1 8

Mean =

Find the mean of the given data below, rounding your answer to the nearest whole number.

11 12 28 17 21 24 27

Mean =

Find the median of the data given below:

15 20 10 15 14 23 14

Median =

Find the median of the data given below:

20 13 10 20

Median =

Find the median of the data below:

26.3 18.6 8.8 23.2 29.3 20.9 1.5 0.2

Median =

Find the mode of the data given below:

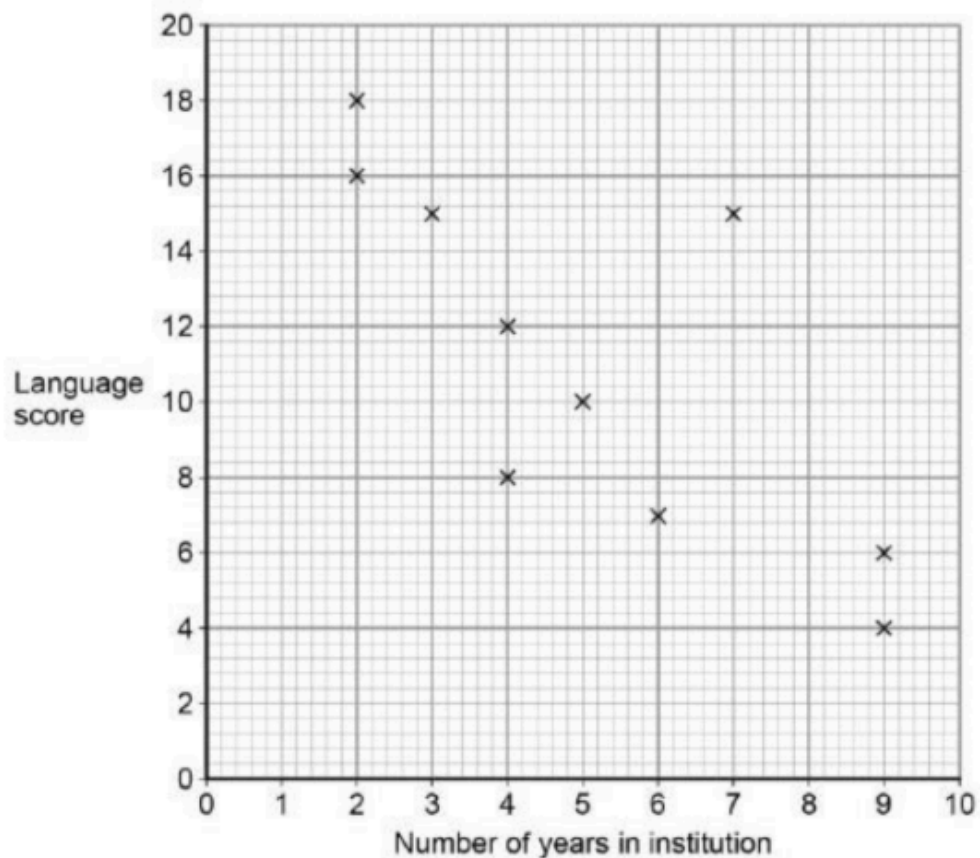
1 4 6 2 10 11 12 8 10

Find the mode of the data given below:

8 6 5 3 3 6

A psychologist thinks that there may be a link between language ability and institutionalisation. She tests the language skills of 8-year-old institutionalised children. A high score on the test indicates good language ability and a low score on the test indicates poor language ability. She also records the number of years that each child has been institutionalised. The findings are shown in the figure below.

The relationship between time spent in institution and language score



(c) Identify the type of graphical display in the figure.

- A Histogram
- B Bar graph
- C Line graph
- D Scattergram

(1)

(d) How many children took part in the study?

(1)

(e) What does the pattern of data in the figure suggest about language ability and institutionalisation?

(2)

Task 4 = Research on Obedience

One of the most famous and controversial psychological experiments is Milgram's obedience study. Milgram was interested in understanding why so many ordinary people obeyed Nazi officials and enabled the Holocaust to take place.



Watch the video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KND_bBDE8RQ

Read the article - <https://www.thoughtco.com/milgram-experiment-4176401>

Find out the following information based on what you have watched/read:

1. Aim of study
2. Procedure
3. Findings
4. Conclusion
5. Criticisms