

# PSYCHOLOGY

How does the A-level work?



basics



- **The A-level takes 2 years to complete**
- **There are 3 exam papers, in Summer 2022**
- **These 3 exams are *equally weighted* and all contribute to your final grade**

<b>Paper 1: Introductory Topics</b>	<b>Paper 2: Psychology in Context</b>	<b>Paper 3: Issues and Options</b>
Social influence e.g. conformity	Approaches in Psychology e.g. behaviourism	Issues and debates in psychology e.g. ethics
Memory e.g. effects of anxiety	Biopsychology e.g. the nervous system	<b>Relationships</b>
Attachment e.g. maternal deprivation	Research methods e.g. statistical testing	<b>Schizophrenia</b>
Psychopathology e.g. treating phobias		<b>Forensic psychology</b>

*There are maths questions and methods questions throughout!*

# summary

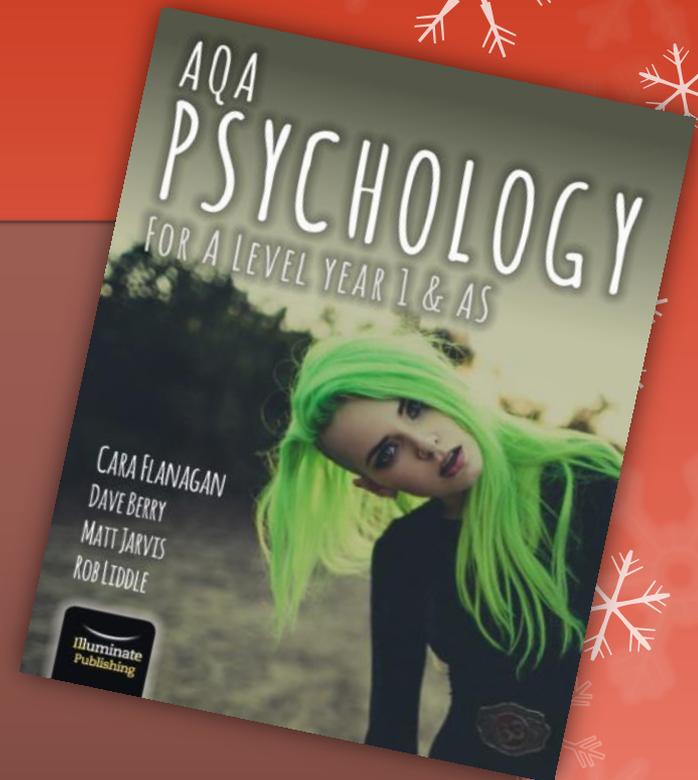


- It's a two year A-level with 3 exams at the end
- There's a *huge* amount of content to remember – this means you have to revise from day one
- Every section on every paper could include research methods/maths



# Things to have

- Folder(s)
- Pens + other stationery
- Paper
- Textbook



# Ethical Issues in Psychology

**Read this side then turn over:**

These arise when a dilemma exists between participants' rights and researchers' needs to gain valuable and meaningful findings. This conflict has implications for the safety and wellbeing of participants.

Here are 4 of the main ethical issues that psychology has to consider:

<p><b>Informed consent</b> Participants in studies should know what they are getting into before they sign up! Informed consent means that they should know the aims, procedures and their right to withdraw (during the investigation if they want to).</p>	<p><b>Deception</b> Deliberately misleading or withholding information from participants! If there is any deception then this will also mean they have not given <i>informed</i> consent. Sometimes deception can be justified if it does not cause the participants undue stress.</p>
<p><b>Protection from harm</b> This is about risk! Participants should not be put at any significant risk; they should be safe from psychological harm (such as embarrassment, stress or pressure) and physical harm. An important point here is the right to withdraw (see above), which helps reduce the potential for harm.</p>	<p><b>Privacy and confidentiality</b> Participants have the right to control information about themselves, it is private! Confidentiality is enshrined in law under the Data Protection Act. The right to privacy extends to the area where a study took place, so that there are no obvious clues about who the participants were. In other words, if a psychologist invades your privacy, they must keep the data confidential.</p>

The British Psychological Society issues a set of ethical guidelines. These guidelines are matched to the ethical issues above. They are implemented by ethics committees in research institutions who often use a cost-benefit approach to determine whether research proposals are acceptable.

It is the responsibility of ethics committees to weigh up the **costs and benefits** of research proposals to decide whether the research study should go ahead. Benefits might include the value or ground-breaking nature of the research. Possible costs may be the damaging effect on individual participants or to the reputation of psychology as a whole.



# **AQA Psychology TRANSITION WORK**

Answer these questions:

**1. What is standard deviation?**

- a. It is a measure of the dispersion of data
- b. It is a measure of the average in a set of data
- c. It is a measure of whether a hypothesis has been supported by a set of data

**2. What is a correlation?**

- a. It is a test of the difference between two variables
- b. It is a measure of a relationship between two co-variables
- c. It is a way of showing how one variable causes another

**3. What is the difference between a laboratory experiment and a natural experiment?**

- a. A laboratory experiment takes place in a controlled environment but a natural experiment takes place in a natural setting where the researcher manipulates a variable
- b. A laboratory experiment takes place in a controlled environment but a natural experiment takes place in a natural setting where the researcher does not manipulate a variable

**4. Go to <http://beta.bps.org.uk/>. Click on Discover Psychology. Write down two interesting points that you can learn from this web page.**

1.

2.

**5. Go to <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>. Look at the specification. List two of the topics you will study within BioPsychology. (These can be found on page 19).**

1.

2.

# **AQA Psychology TRANSITION WORK**

## **RESEARCH TASK: LONG-TERM MEMORY**

One of the Y12 Psychology topics is Memory. This includes the study of types of long-term memory: episodic, procedural and semantic. Answer the questions below.

1. What is episodic memory?
2. What is semantic memory?
3. What is procedural memory?
4. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vwigmktix2Y> . [Clive Wearing The man with no short term memory].
5. Give two examples of behaviours that you can see Clive Wearing do.
6. Which of the 3 types of long-term memory is worst affected in Clive Wearing? Explain.