



A-Level Psychology – Summer Work



Course Overview

A-Level Psychology is assessed by 100% examination, consisting of three 2-hour papers based on the AQA Specification.

Paper Content

Paper 1

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper 2

- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Paper 3

- Issues and Debates
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

You will answer a range of short-answer questions and extended-answer essays, with marks ranging from 2 to 16. These questions require both description and evaluation.

Skills Needed for September

Essay Writing

You will be expected to write frequent 16-mark essays. Before September, you should familiarise yourself with how to write critically by practising:

- Structuring PEEL paragraphs (Point, Evidence, Explain, Link back to the question)
- Using persuasive and academic language
- Supporting and challenging arguments using research evidence
- Thinking critically about strengths and weaknesses of psychological studies

Research Methods and Maths Skills

You must be confident with the following maths skills before starting the course:

- Drawing and interpreting bar charts and scatter graphs
- Calculating:
 - Mean, median and mode
 - Range
 - Percentages
 - Fractions and ratios

Psychology Summer Work: Social Influence & Memory

In the first term, we will study Social Influence, which explores:

- **Why humans conform and obey**
- **Why we sometimes resist social pressure**

& Memory, which explores:

- **Models of Memory**
- **Factors affecting eyewitness testimony**

Over the summer, you are expected to engage with a range of media resources linked to these topics. These will help prepare you for lessons and assessments in September.

You should also explore:

- The course textbook (Please be aware for your cohort certain topics have been removed therefore please check the course guide available on our website that has the full list of correct topics).
- Tutor2u resources

Textbook Access

You can access the textbook here:

<https://illuminate.digital/aqapsych2edy1/>

Username: Sthomhar7

Password: Green7

A-Level Psychology – Summer Work Preparation

To help you feel confident and prepared for A-Level Psychology, you are expected to complete some light but meaningful summer work. This work introduces you to two core topics you will study early in the course:

- Social Influence
- Memory

The aim is not to memorise everything, but to build curiosity, understanding, and confidence before September.

Social Influence

Social Influence explores why people conform, obey authority, or resist social pressure.

You must engage with at least two of the following resources:

- **Asch's Line Study (Conformity)**
BBC Sounds podcast:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00f8mzr>
- **Milgram's Obedience Study**
News report:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yz-P5CWE1E>
Experiment clip:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sblZu68psFM>
- **Locus of Control**
BBC Sounds podcast:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b01gf5sr>
- **Minority Influence**
Psychology Press podcast:
https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/psypress-podcast/episodes/2010-11-09T08_07_11-08_00

Memory

Memory examines how information is encoded, stored, and retrieved, and why memory can sometimes be inaccurate.

You must engage with at least two of the following resources:

- **Working Memory – A Conversation with Alan Baddeley**
Hear directly from the psychologist behind the Working Memory Model.
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/7FnSwZ22EfqoDLfI0e3XEh>
- **How Memory Is Stored in the Brain (BBC Learning Hub)**
Looks at people with exceptional autobiographical memory.
<https://www.bbclearninghub.com/videos/how-memory-stored>
- **Can We Trust Eyewitnesses?**
Real-world links between memory research and the justice system.
<https://sites.psu.edu/aspsy/2026/03/05/can-we-trust-eyewitnesses-what-social-psychology-tells-us/>
- **Simply Psychology – Eyewitness Testimony**
Clear written explanations with key studies.
<https://www.simplypsychology.org/eyewitness-testimony.html>
- **Elizabeth Loftus on False Memory**
Interview with the leading researcher on memory distortion.
<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/video/elizabeth-loftus-tps.html>

Task:

In one of your first lessons, you will complete a 30-minute written task answering the following question:

“How reliable is human behaviour and memory?”

You should use information from the textbook and the resources you explored over the summer to support your response.