

Preparing for AS Psychology: Summer Term 2020

Please find below some OPTIONAL recommendations that may provide you with the opportunity to start thinking about, reading around and preparing for your AS Level Psychology course that you intend to follow.

Note - As psychology will be a new subject to you in the sixth form, I advise that you only start to build a general appreciation for this social science rather than trying to learn and achieve anything specific, as you may need more hand holding when it comes to concepts and terminology that you have not come across before than in other subjects that you have studied for a while.

Course Specification

You may want to visit the subject page of the WJEC website to start to gain an impression of the topics that we will cover during the AS year.

https://wjec.co.uk/qualifications/psychology-as-a-level/#tab_overview

Suggested Reading

If and when you decide to follow the AS course, we will provide you with all the resources that you will need, there is certainly no need to spend money. This being said, if you did want to conduct some summer reading the following may be good purchases to help develop your wider appreciation for the subject.

- Opening Skinner's Box - Lauren Slater
- Classic Case Studies in Psychology - Geoff Rolls
- Quirkology - Richard Wiseman
- Behind the Shock Machine - Gina Perry

Suggested Website

The SimplyPsychology website may be a good resource for you to tap into over the next few weeks as it contains study notes/information on lots of psychological theories/perspectives such as those of Freud, Milgram and Kohlberg which we will consider as part of your AS learning.

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

Suggested Viewing

I absolutely love a TED talk and I imagine you have viewed a fair few during your GSCE courses. I highly recommend you having a browse through the many TED talks that have been given in relation to psychological topics. There are lots available and you will be able to refine your viewing to those aspects of psychology that you are particularly interested in. Currently we have been recommending to our y12/13 students lots of talks on the topic of positive psychology/happiness/mindfulness. We think these are particularly relevant to the strange times in which we find ourselves and again will be relevant to your AS studies. Some links are provided:

https://www.ted.com/talks/martin_seligman_the_new_era_of_positive_psychology

https://www.ted.com/talks/andy_puddicombe_all_it_takes_is_10_mindful_minutes

https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_gilbert_the_surprising_science_of_happiness

These are just a few suggestions to get you started, but explore as many topics as you can.

If you have access to Netflix then there are some great shows that consider human behaviour generally including:

100 humans

The Mind Explained

If not Netflix, you could catch up on 'What Makes A Murderer?' available on All4

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/what-makes-a-murderer>

Suggested Listening

Finally, another great resource that you may want to take advantage of is the 'All in the Mind' BBC podcast, which again covers a wide variety of psychology-based topics and would allow you to consider those areas of most personal interest.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxx9/episodes/downloads?page=1>

Feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions (dk@cardiffhigh.co.uk) and of course keep an eye on our twitter page @psychologyCHS as I hope to share relevant articles regularly using this platform.

I look forward to getting to know you in September.

Mrs Kidd :)