



Session Objectives

- By the end of the session you should be able :-
- To know what Psychology is and what we study
- Outline the Summer Bridging Unit work to be completed for September
- Give some examples of the types of topics we look at
- Explain how this may be useful to your future
- Answer any queries you may have regarding the subject



What is Psychology ?

- With the person next to you :-
- What do you think Psychology is ?
- What types of things do you expect to study if you take it ?



Psychology

- “the **scientific** study of the human **mind** and its functions, especially those affecting **behaviour** in a given context”
- Depends on type of psychologist you are the importance you give to the three words in bold
- **But need EVIDENCE – more than just “what we think”**



Different types of Psychologist

- Biological – behaviour is product of our genes, hormones, chromosomes
- Behaviourists – behaviour is product of influences from groups in our environment
- Cognitive – concerned with how our brains develop and process information
- Psychodynamic – behaviour is shaped by early experiences with parents
- Humanistic – we have free will to do as we wish
- **This forms the basis of the first topic we will cover in September – Approaches (Theories) of human behaviour**



Topics / Questions we cover in A Level Psychology

- **Y12 topics**
- Approaches – what are the key theories to explain how we behave ? Including Biopsychology – how biological processes and structures effect our behaviour ? **(RH/RE)**
- Cognitive – How does the brain remember information ? (Memory) **(CPa)**
- Developmental – Why do babies attach to their caregiver ? (Attachment) **(RH/RE)**
- Research Methods – How can we study these topics ? (Experiments, Observations etc) **(RH/RE)**
- Social – How do people behave in groups ? (Obedience, Conformity) **(CPa)**
- Individual differences – What is normal behaviour ? How do we help those with psychological problems ? (Psychopathology) **(CPa)**



Topics / Questions we cover in A Level Psychology

- **Y13 Topics (some options)**
- **Issues and Debates in Psychology (compulsory)**
- Relationships – what effects our choices / success ? **Or** Gender – why do males and females behave differently ? **Or** Cognition and Development – how do we develop our cognitive ability ?
- Schizophrenia – what is it ? Explanations and treatments, **Or** Eating behaviour – how can we explain our eating patterns and how do we treat disorders ? **Or** Stress – what makes some people stressed and how can we help them ?
- Aggression – how can we explain human aggression, **Or** Forensics – how do we explain crime and how do we punish / treat ?, **Or** Addiction – why do some people show addictive behaviour and how can we help them ?



Where will it take me ?

- Any JOB where you deal with people, Psychology is useful
- **Examples**
- An employer may wish to know what motivates his workers ?
- A doctor may want to know why a person is suffering with a mental issue.
- A business may wish to know what type of advertising influences people most.
- A teacher may wish to understand what makes student learn and remember information !!
- A nursery may wish to know why children may be upset
- A sports coach may wish to help someone overcome nerves



Summer

- Bridging Unit 2018
- Summer Work on “The Origins of Psychology” and the first approach – Behaviourism
- **P124-127 – Complete the “Can You” questions on p125 and p127 (except for Q6)**
- First lesson in September 2018 – Approaches (RH/RE)
- Assessment in first 2 weeks



Behaviourism

- Psychologists who believe **all behaviour is learned** via a process of conditioning
- Classical conditioning – learning via association (Pavlov)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhqumfpxuzI&safe=active> (first 3 mins)
- Operant conditioning – learning via reinforcement (Skinner)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_ctJqjlrHA&safe=active (first 2 mins)