Psychology Revision List: Oct 2026

The week beginning **19th October 2026** is the start of a one week mock examination period for Year 13.

In Psychology you will have a 1 x 2hr paper

The questions can come from the following topics:

Paper: All bullet points include A01 and A03

Approaches (24 marks)

- Behaviourist Approach (A Learning Approach) + Evaluation
- Social Learning Theory (A Learning Approach) + Evaluation
- Cognitive Approach + Evaluation
- Biological Approach – including Cognitive Neuroscience + Evaluation
- Psychodynamic Approach + Evaluation
- Humanistic Approach + Evaluation
- Comparison of Approach + Evaluation (Similarities and Differences – Use Issues and Debates)

Biopsychology (24 marks)

- The Nervous System
- The Endocrine System
- Fight or Flight – how the systems work together
- Neurons – including different types of neurons, structure and function
- Synaptic Transmission
- Localisation of Function + Evaluation
- Lateralisation + Evaluation
- Plasticity and Functional Recovery + Evaluation
- Ways of Studying the Brain (fMRI, EEG, ERP, Post Mortem) + Evaluation

Research Methods (48 marks)

1. 'Planning' Stage

· ***IVs and DVs –*** including operationalisation
· ***Hypothesis –*** types, how to write them, when to use them
· ***EVs –*** participant and situational – how to control them
· ***Types of Validity*** – including measuring/assessing validity (face and concurrent)
· ***Reliability –*** including measuring/assessing reliability (test-retest and inter-rater)
· ***Experimental design*** (repeated, independent, and matched pairs) including evaluation
· **Sampling methods** (random, systematic, stratified, opportunity and volunteer) including evaluation
· **Ethical issues** and how to control them including British Psychological Society (BPS)
· **Pilot Studies** – how and purpose
· **Other procedures** – single blind, double blind, control groups
· **Demand characteristics**, social desirability, investigator effects, investigator bias, order effects (and counterbalancing).

2. 'Doing' Stage: Research Methods:

· **Experiments** (lab, field, natural, quasi) including evaluation
· **Questionnaires** (closed, open, rating/likert scales) including evaluation

· **Interviews** (structured, unstructured, semi-structured) including evaluation.
  - *Questionnaires and Interviews are both self-report methods*
· **Case Studies** including evaluation
· **Observational techniques and Observational design** including evaluation
· **Correlations –** including drawing a scatter graph and evaluation

3. 'Analysing' Stage:

- **Types of Data –** primary, secondary, quantitative, qualitative including evaluation
- **Measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode) –** including when is appropriate to use them and evaluation
- **Measures of dispersion (range and SD) –** including when is appropriate to use them and evaluation
- **Distributions** (negative, positive and normal)
- **Choosing a statistical test –** stats table (test of difference or association, level of measurement, experimental design)
- **Sign Test –** how to calculate calculated value.
- **Critical value tables –** knowing how to identify (type of hypothesis (one or two tailed?), 0.05 level, and N/df)
- **Levels of significance and probability**
- **Type I and Type II errors –** including what do they mean and why do they happen.
- **Analysing Qualitative Data – Content Analysis and Thematic Analysis –** including how you do them and how you can check the reliability of them.
- Ways of Assessing/Measuring Reliability and Validity
- **Presenting Data – Graphs –** including how to draw them (label axis, title)
- **Writing a report**
- **Peer Review –** how is it done and why
- **Features of a Science**

- **12 Mark Questions!** – Remember they will ask you to answer 3 or 4 bullet points which could be anything from Research Methods – one paragraph per bullet point.

Useful websites

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182

Revision Guides

https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Psychology-Level-Year-AS/dp/1908682442/ref=sr_1_1?crid=8Y5QGO8ZKP8Y&keywords=illuminate+psychology+revision+guide&qid=1570476833&sprefix=illuminate+revision%2Caps%2C146&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Psychology-Level-Year-Revision-Guide/dp/1908682450/ref=sr_1_2?crid=8Y5QGO8ZKP8Y&keywords=illuminate+psychology+revision+guide&qid=1570476870&sprefix=illuminate+revision%2Caps%2C146&sr=8-2