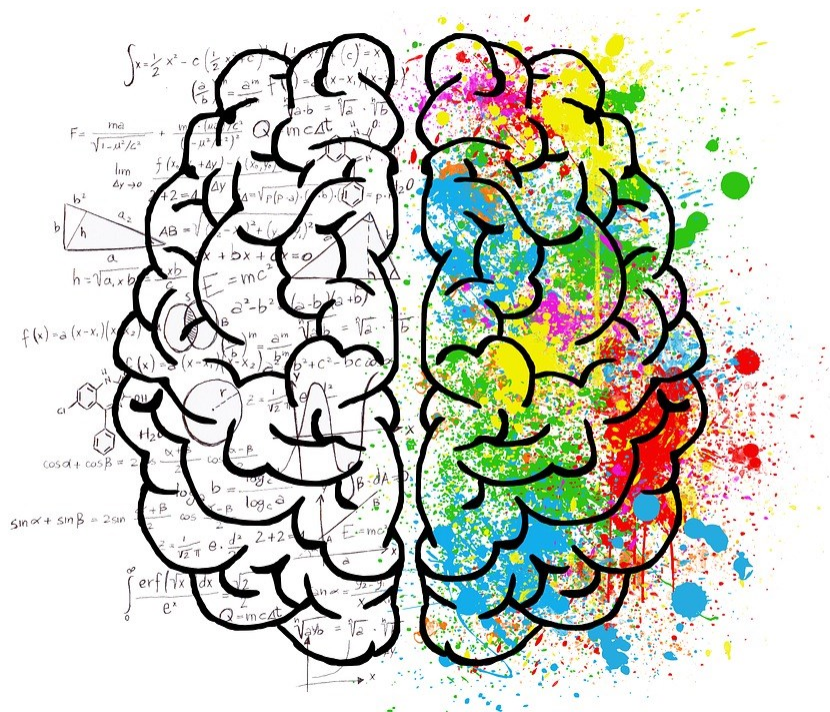# GCSE Psychology

Home support guide

2025-2026

Mrs Dias & Miss Glasper

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

So, your child has made the decision to do GCSE Psychology… here is an idea of what they can expect to study over the course of the year:

What will I study?

YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Criminal behaviour	Social Influence
Psychological problems	Sleep and dreaming
Development	Memory
Research methods	Research methods

What will my exam in year 11 look like?

Exam board: OCR (J203)

Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	90	1 hour 30 mins	50%
Paper 2	90	1 hour 30 mins	50%

Paper 1	**Paper 2**
• Criminal psychology • Development • Psychological problems • Research methods (designing an investigation)	• Social influence • Memory • Sleep and dreaming • Research methods (Q&A on a novel source)

Assessment objectives

AO1	Demonstrate **knowledge** and **understanding**
AO2	**Application** of knowledge and understanding (STEM)
AO3	**Analysis** and **evaluation** of psychological information

How do we monitor your child's progress in Psychology?

Tracking your child's progress is an important part of their educational journey. It allows us, as a department, to celebrate your child's successes and support their areas for development. On top of live marking, exam practise and low stakes quizzing in lessons, we also set summative assessments. The summative assessments may take place in the classroom setting or in the hall with the rest of their cohort. Students will receive feedback and a grade per summative assessment. See below the assessment overview for Psychology. Your child has been informed of specific dates for these assessment on their learning timeline which they received in their 1st Psychology lesson.

Assessment overview

Year 10	
Assessment	When (approx.)?
Unit: Issues and debates EOUA *Type: In class assessment*	Autumn term 1
Unit: Criminal Psychology + Research methods *Type: Mock exam (Hall)*	Autumn term 2
Unit: Criminal Psychology EOUA *Type: In class assessment*	Spring term 1
Unit: Psychological problems MUA *Type: In class assessment*	Spring term 2
Unit: Criminal Psychology + Psychological problems +Research methods *Type: Mock exam (Hall)*	Summer term 1
Unit: Development MUA *Type: In class assessment*	Summer term 2
Unit: Development EOUA *Type: In class assessment*	Summer term 2

Year 11	
Assessment	When (approx.)?
Baseline test *Type: In class assessment*	Autumn term 1
Unit: Social Influence MUA *Type: In class assessment*	Autumn term 1
Unit: Social Influence EOUA *Type: In class assessment*	Autumn term 2
Unit: Sleep and dreaming MUA *Type: In class assessment*	Autumn term 2
Unit: Sleep and dreaming EOUA *Type: In class assessment*	Spring term 1
Paper 1 & Paper 2 *Type: Mock exam (Hall)*	Spring term 1 +2
Unit: Memory MUA *Type: In class assessment*	Spring term 2
Unit: Memory EOUA *Type: In class assessment*	Summer term 1
Official GCSE Exams	Summer term 1 & 2

Key:
MUA= Mid unit assessment
EOUA = End of unit assessment

Exam style questions format

Data analysis and interpretation

Using ten participants, researchers measured the amount of time (in minutes) spent in Stage 1 of the sleep cycle.

The following data was collected.
10.0 9.5 8.2 10.7 10.3 9.6 7.5 10.2 9.9 10.1

Calculate the range for this set of data. Show your working. **(2 marks)**

Extended writing (essay question)

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint:
"Often it is not so much the kind of person a human is as the kind of situation in which he/ she finds themselves that determines how they will act."

In your answer you should refer to learning theories of development and at least **one** different area of psychology you have studied.

(13 marks)

Multiple choice (MCQ)

Identify the method used to gather data in Tandoc et al.'s (2015) study into Facebook use.

A experiment
B interview
C observation
D questionnaire
(1 mark)

Scenario (i.e. STEM) response

Matej and Joanne are concerned about the growing sexism amongst some males at their school. They have heard peers using derogatory words when talking about females. As a result, their teacher suggests that they give a talk to the year group at the next assembly and launch an awareness campaign.

Explain how Matej and Joanne could change attitudes towards sexism at their school.
(4 marks)

Short answer

Describe **one** weakness of the Social Drift theory as an explanation for schizophrenia.**(3 marks)**

Research methods

Outline **one** strength of using a rating scale to measure people's experience of the ride. **(2 marks)**

New GCSE grading

How the new grades compare with the old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
	8
A	7
B	6
	5 STRONG PASS
C	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	
	2
F	
	1
G	
U	U

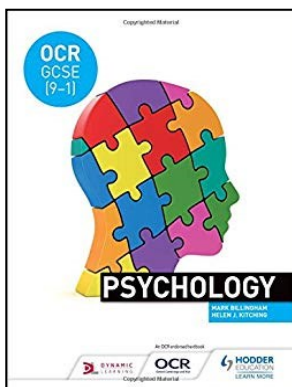# Preparing for Psychology GCSE

Microsoft Teams (website and App)
We upload all of our class resources (PowerPoints, handouts, worksheets, booklets etc) to this site. Your child will receive a code to access their class teams in their first lesson with us. If they are absent please let us know.
You can download Teams as an app and access it anywhere!
Website: https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams

Digital textbook
We have a digital copy of our class textbook on 'Microsoft Teams'. This means you do not have to purchase a textbook as your child can access this book on any device.
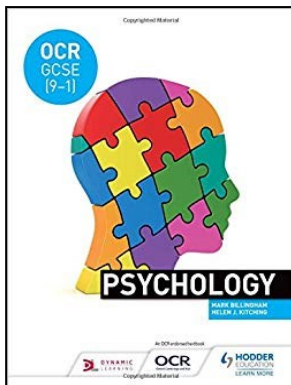Website: https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams

Loan books
We also have books to loan out to students. Please ask your child to see their class teacher for more information.

What textbook can I purchase?

Although we provide a digital version of our in-class textbook for students, we know that some students prefer a physical version of the book. See below the two textbooks we would recommend, which can be purchased online (e.g. Amazon, Waterstones etc). Please be wary around older OCR specification textbooks as the units differ significantly.
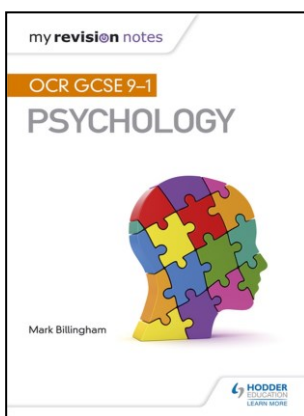
OCR GCSE (9-1) Psychology
Author: Mark Billingham, Helen Kitching
ISBN: 9781471899577
Publisher: Hodder Education
Date: July 2017

Main textbook used in class

My revision notes: OCR GCSE (9-1) Psychology
Author: Mark Billingham
ISBN: 9781510423220
Publisher: Hodder Education
Date: August 2018

Revision guide (summarised version of the main textbook)

Further support at School

Yr11 Revision sessions

Throughout the year the Psychology department host afterschool and half term holiday revision sessions for your child to attend. At the start of the school year students will be told the allocated day of revision, and this will be communicated home via classcharts.
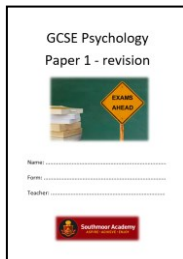
Academic intervention hour

The Psychology department will host an academic intervention hour drop in afterschool for students who would like assistance with their homework, classwork and revision. This to ensure students have the support available to complete homeworks on time and in full. Although this is optional, in some circumstances this may be mandatory if homework and classwork is consistently incomplete or absent.

At the start of the school year students will be told the allocated day of this intervention hour, and this will be communicated home via classcharts.
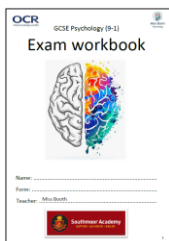
My child is unsure where to start with their revision

Unit work booklet
For each unit students will have completed a unit booklet which has information and activities. They can use this booklet to create revision materials e.g flashcards, comic strips.
Also available online (website): https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams

Exam booklet
This booklet contains all of the past questions from official exam papers for this subject. It is broken down into topics and subtopics for students ease and navigation.
Also available online (website): https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams

Knowledge organisers
Students will receive knowledge organisers for each topic which is an infographic knowledge organiser showing summaries for subtopics within each unit. Perfect for students who are unsure of the unit structure and where to begin with revision.
Also available online (website): https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams
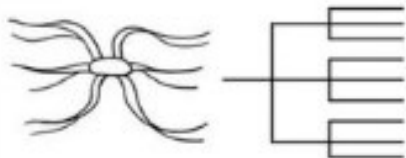
Previous assessments
For each unit students complete a mid-unit assessment and an end of unit assessment in class. Students can use the feedback to help improve their responses and use this as a revision tool. Students may take these past assessments home.

If your child is still unsure they must see their teacher for a revision plan.

Learning/Revision Techniques

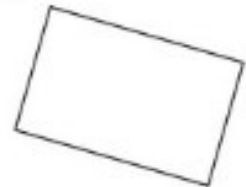## Map It
Create a mind map of the key points.

Journey It
Remember lists of information by placing images on a journey.

Index It
Transfer the key points to index cards.

Story It
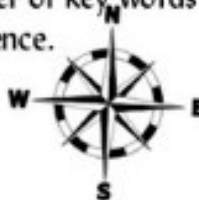Create a weird and vivid story using the key points.

Mnemonic It
Use the first letter of key words to create a sentence.

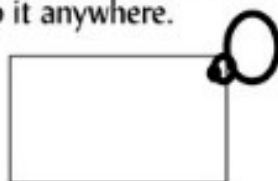A well known example:
Never
Eat
Shredded
Wheat

Click It
Create a presentation about the key points.

Flip It
Write questions and answers and flip it anywhere.

Timeline It
Place key points along a line in date order.

Sing It
Set key points to some familiar music/rap.

Record It
Use your mobile to record yourself explaining the key points and play it back regularly.

Post It
Write key words on to Post Its and stick them around your room.

Comic It
Create your own comic strip using the key points.