Supporting students of A-level Psychology at Toot Hill College

Psychology is a subject that allows students to study a range of topics focused on human behaviour, and through studying all these topics, students will develop a curiosity about the world around them and an understanding of the past, people, beliefs, theories and ways to explain a range of different human behaviour, including those in our contemporary society. Students will develop strong academic skills, such as those of analysis, evaluation and communication, that will benefit them in a range of Post 18 pathways. Psychology is also a very popular choice for Post-18 Destinations. The Social Science department will support all students to achieve their full potential and teachers value the support of parents and carers as students’ progress towards the external examinations. Below is some important information and frequently asked questions designed to inform parents and carers. Please contact teaching staff or the Head of Faculty if you have further questions.

**Department staff:**

Head of Faculty (social sciences) and lead teacher for year 13 – Miss G. Revagliatte – [grevagliatte@toothillschool.co.uk](mailto:grevagliatte@toothillschool.co.uk)

Lead teacher for year 12 – Miss E. Wood – [ewood@toothillschool.co.uk](mailto:ewood@toothillschool.co.uk)

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| Subject | Exam board | Course title and code | Structure | Key dates | Final exams |
| Psychology | AQA | 7182 A Level Psychology | Year 12   1. Approaches (EWO) 2. Research methods (REV) 3. Memory (EWO) 4. Social psychology (EWO) 5. Attachment (EWO) 6. Psychopathology (EWO) 7. Biopsychology (REV)   Year 13:   1. Research methods year 2 2. Approaches year 2 3. Issues and debates 4. Gender 5. Schizophrenia 6. Forensics 7. Revision for paper 1, 2 and 3 exams. | **Internal assessments:**  Year 12 - November – example paper of approaches, research methods and part of memory.  Year 12 June – Paper 1 – social psychology, memory, attachment and psychopathology  Year 13 – November – Paper 2: approaches, research methods and biopsychology  Year 13 – March – Paper 1 - social psychology, memory, attachment and psychopathology  Paper 3: Issues and debates, Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensics | Year 13 May/June exams  Confirmed (2024):  7182/1 Introductory topics in Psychology **2h 17 May 2024 am** 7182/2 Psychology in context **2h 22 May 2024 am**  7182/3 Issues and options in Psychology **2h 03 June 2024 pm** |

**Frequently asked questions**

1. Where can I find past papers and mark schemes?

* You can find all past paper questions, mark schemes and examiners reports here: [AQA | AS and A-level | Psychology | Assessment resources](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/assessment-resources)

1. Does my student know where to access guidance when answering exam questions?

* The AQA website also has examiner reports that students will find useful in understanding common misconceptions: [AQA | AS and A-level | Psychology | Assessment resources](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/assessment-resources)
* In class, we complete regular assessments and exam questions. Students have guidance on how to answer these exam questions in their assessment books which they can use as part of their revision in the atrium.

1. What happens if my student has gaps in their knowledge due to absence?

* Knowledge organisers are available for every topic and knowledge organiser key terms tests are given at the end of every topic to assess gaps and set specific targets for revision. A student can look over their knowledge organiser to support their learning.
* All resources are also uploaded on to the files section of teams regularly. Students can catch up with any work if they are absent using these resources.
* All students also have an UPLEARN account where they can watch summary videos, read key content and practice exam questions for all the topics in psychology.
* If students are unsure, they can also ask their classroom teacher.

1. What resources are recommended to support my student?

* Textbooks and revision guides for psychology which can be bought second hand from amazon or new from world of books. Students have been signposted to the books they are recommended to buy.
* Revision lists and power points on the file’s sections of teams
* All students also have an UPLEARN account where they can watch summary videos, read key content and practice exam questions for all the topics in psychology.
* Exam practice questions should be completed at home regularly to develop key exam skills.

1. What else can I do to support my student at home?

* Parents/carers could direct students to use their revision lists, or download exam practice questions from the AQA website. You could also time students when writing longer answer questions (20 mins for a 16-marker essay).
* Parents/carers could also test their knowledge of key concepts by using flash cards.
* Parents/carers could encourage students to complete a number of hours of UPLEARN a week.

1. How can I help with revision?

* Encourage your student to access the revision homework tasks mentioned above. If you are able to take part in quizzing your student (if they have made flashcards or are using online quizzes), this will give them some variation to their revision and works well as a revision technique.
* Encouraging your student to focus on the areas of the courses that they feel less confident with will also be beneficial.
* Encourage students to complete a number of hours of UPLEARN a week.

1. What can I do if I need more support or my student is needing more support?

* Please contact classroom teacher or head of faculty to arrange a meeting and devise a structured revision plan.