



Revising for GCSE Psychology

Revising more effectively for Psychology

1. Get to know the specification

The AQA GCSE Psychology course consists of two exam papers, with each paper worth 50% of your total exam grade.

In your paper 1 exam (Cognition and Behaviour), the topics are:

1. Memory
2. Perception
3. Development
4. Research methods

In your paper 2 exam (Social Context and Behaviour), the topics are:

1. Social influence
2. Language thought and communication
3. Brain and neuropsychology
4. Psychological problems

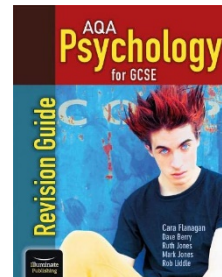
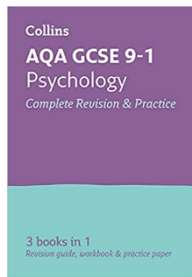
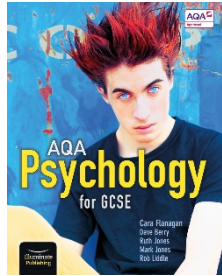
Each exam is 100 marks and 1hr 45 minutes.

All of the questions in the exams will cover **one or more** of the course assessment objectives. These are:

- Assessment objective 1 (AO1) will want you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes and procedures.
- Assessment objective 2 (AO2) will measure how well you apply knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes and procedures.
- Assessment objective 3 (AO3) checks to see how well you analyse and evaluate psychological information, ideas, processes and procedures to make judgements and draw conclusions.

2. Topic content

Within each of the topics mentioned above, there are a number of key studies and theories that we need to be aware of. Textbooks and revision guides can be a great tool to use to get to grips with the initial course content and for the revision of key studies and theories.



3. Revision tips- what works?

- **Key term flashcards**

Create flashcards for each of the topics by summarising your notes into key points. You could write information on both sides and use them as a method quizzing yourself and others on the knowledge of studies and theories.

How to use them in Psychology:

- Key terms- definitions and examples of application
- Studies- summarise the aim, procedure, findings and conclusions of key research.
- Theories- bullet point the key aspects of theories
- Evaluation- note down summaries of the strengths and limitations of studies and theories

- **Knowledge organisers**

Create a summary sheet (limit yourself to one side of paper) aiming to include all of the key information for a topic in note form. You could keep these somewhere visible and challenge yourself to explain certain parts in more detail. You could create these for whole topics- but remember the bigger the topic the more information to summarise!

- **Dual coding**

Put the knowledge of studies and theories into visual form to support your summaries.

How to use this in psychology:

- Create a storyboard for the procedures of research studies
- Create spider diagrams of the key information of theories and include illustrations to help you to remember.

- **Retrieval practice**

Create quick quizzes and test yourself and others in order to check your understanding of key terms, studies and theories. You could use any flashcards that you have made to do this too. You may see some

multiple choice questions on your exam papers, so practicing the quick retrieval of information is really helpful! Please come and see your teacher if you would like **any** practice exam questions- we have lots!

- **Know your command terms**

Be aware of the different words which are used at the start of the questions in the exam. These are command words and tell you what the question requires you to do.

Calculate

Work out the value of something.

Compare

Identify similarities and/or differences.

Complete

Finish a task by adding to given information.

Consider

Review and respond to given information.

Criticise

Assess worth against explicit expectations.

Define

Give a definition of.

Describe

Give an account of.

Discuss

Present key points about different ideas or strengths and weaknesses of an idea.

Draw

Present a possible conclusion.

Estimate

Assign an approximate value.

Evaluate

Judge from available evidence.

Explain

Set out purposes or reasons.

Explain how

Give a detailed account of a process or way of doing something.

Explain why

Give a detailed account of reasons in relation to a particular situation.

Give

Produce an answer from recall or from given information.

Identify

Name or otherwise characterise.

Interpret

Translate information into recognisable form.

Justify

Support a case with evidence.

Label

Provide appropriate names on a diagram.

Name

Identify using a recognised technical term.

Outline

Set out main characteristics.

Sketch

Roughly draw or plot.

State

Express in clear terms.

Suggest

Present a possible case/solution.

Write

Provide information in verbatim form.