**Psychology Transition work**

**Introduction**

Psychology simply means the science of behaviour; it is an academic subject for people who are interested in people. The study of Psychology gives you a rigorous understanding of a wide range of behaviours including gang involvement, social identification, disordered behaviour, criminal activity, addictive behaviour and gender-stereotypes. Psychology enables you to explore the human condition to understand more about your self and about others. Psychology uses scientific methods to analyse, quantify and predict human behaviour. As outlined on the specification, research methods is a large section of the course, both as a stand alone topic, but also because each topic is studied through research methods. You will be studying the following areas:

* Social Psychology & Cognitive Psychology
* Biological, Learning and Psychodynamic Psychology
* Health and Criminal Psychology
* Issues and Debates and Clinical Psychology

To study psychology you need to have a positive and open mind. It requires both mathematical and scientific skills, as well as written analyse.

**In order to prepare yourself for your A Level course have a go at some of the transition activities below.**

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| **Watch** this TED talk.  How much of what you think about psychology is actually wrong? In this whistle-stop tour of disproved ideas, Ben Ambridge shares nine popular ideas about psychology that have been proven wrong.  [9](https://www.ted.com/talks/ben_ambridge_9_myths_about_psychology_debunked) [Myths about psychology, debunked](https://www.ted.com/talks/ben_ambridge_9_myths_about_psychology_debunked)  *TED Talks – Ben Ambridge* | A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated  **Read** this article.  We humans are pretty poor judges of who we should trust, says psychologist Julia Shaw.  [What makes a person creepy? And what purpose do our creep detectors serve? A psychologist explains](https://ideas.ted.com/what-makes-a-person-creepy-and-what-purpose-do-our-creep-detectors-serve-a-psychologist-explains/)  *Ideas TED* | A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated**Listen** to this radio programme.  How is the spread of coronavirus changing consumer behaviour?  [The psychology of panic buying](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csy7fn)  *BBC Programmes* |

**Thinking question**

**Why do you think people are inclined to be obedient? Do you think you would have done the same thing?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_mO_QNeyfk&safe=active>

***Read the information. What seems to cause ‘blind’ obedience? What problems can it cause? Does this suggest that we are all capable of evil? Why do you think these situations are more common when people wear uniform***

Another psychologist called Milgram found that people would administer electric shocks to a stranger if instructed to do so by an official looking scientist in a white coat. More recently, experimenters have found that people frequently obey irrational or unreasonable orders if given by a police officer or other authority figure. This suggests that people lose their individuality when confronted with authority and may follow instructions without thinking about the consequences.

Psychologists in the 1960s and 1970s wanted to find out why people obeyed orders even if they led to such terrible consequences. The psychologist Zimbardo created a fake prison with students who were told to be a guard or a prisoner. The students got so caught up in the experiment that it had to be shut down since some of the ‘prisoners’ had begun to show signs of significant stress.

At the My Lai massacre in Vietnam (March 16th 1968) American troops fired at, shot and killed 350 - 500 women, children and old men, in the small village even though they were cowering and clearly had no weapons.

26 servicemen were charged in connection with the killings, but only one soldier, the leader of the 1st platoon (Lt. William Calley) was convicted despite wide spread condemnation of such behaviour, which seemed to go against what humans in that situation would do. Lt. William Calley’s defence was that he was obeying orders from his superior officer Captain Medina. He eventually gained parole after 3.5 years of house arrest.

**Now that you have learnt about obedience... What do you think we can do to prevent people from being overly obedient?**

**Reading, watching and listening**

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| **Resource** | **Author** |
| <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/types-of-conformity> | **Tutor2U** |
| <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/blog/asmrs-effects-on-the-brain-the-body> | **Tutor2U** |
| <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/blog/how-smartphones-sabotage-your-brains-ability-to-focus> | **Tutor2U** |
| Freud For Beginners -Book | Richard Appignanesi and Oscar Zarate |
| Mindwatching: Why We Behave the Way We Do- Book | Hans and Michael Eysenck |
| The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales- Book | Oliver W Sacks |
| Genie: A Scientific Tragedy- Book | Russ Rymer |
| The Private Life of the Brain- Book | Susan Greenfield |
| The Psychopath Test- Book | Jon Ronson |
| <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/blog/top-ten-psychology-movies-to-get-you-to-the-end-of-term>  <https://www.saintleo.edu/blog/18-must-see-films-for-psychology-students>  Follow these links for a list of films related to psychology | Various films |
| <https://www.verywellmind.com/psychology-podcasts-2794800>  follow this link for a list of podcasts related to psychology | Various podcasts |