

A-level Psychology

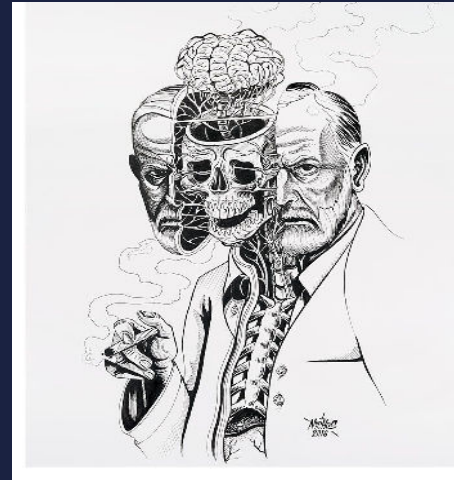
THIS SESSION WILL COVER

What is Psychology?

Why study Psychology?

About the qualification

Q&A



You know too much
psychology
When you cant get mad because
you understand everyone's
reasons for doing everything.

— YONISKA BLANK (PARADISE)

What Is Psychology?

Psychology is the **scientific study** of the mind and behaviour.

It is a dynamic and complex discipline , which is extremely relevant to the world around us and regarded by universities as a highly academic and 'scientific' subject.

Psychology includes many sub-fields of study, such as:

- Human development
- Neuroscience
- Sports
- Health
- Forensic
- Clinical
- Social behaviour
- Cognitive processes

What Is Psychology?

Psychology is highly applicable to everyone and relevant to a wide range of future undergraduate courses and careers.

Psychology, Economics, Medicine, Law, History, Anthropology, Business, Geography to name just a few.

It builds transferable skills.

Why are some people more likely to commit violent crime?

Why do we forget?

Why do some people suffer with mental disorders eg. depression, schizophrenia, OCD, phobias?

Why do some people conform to group pressure? Even when they don't want to?

Psychology In Action: Nature v Nurture

Nature vs. Nurture Debate

Nature:

Because we inherit genes from our parents, we are born with a certain set of characteristics. We clearly inherit physical traits, but we also inherit personality traits and preferences.

Nurture:

The environment around us impacts the way our personalities and preferences develop. "Nurture" and "environment" refer to the home and city we live in, and how we are raised by our parents, teachers, and friends.



Do you think you share any personality traits with your parents or grandparents?



Genes & Success

Studies show that for children living in poverty, it did not matter whether they had good genes or not. The negative impact of the environment almost always played a greater role in their future success than their genes.



For children in middle class and wealthy homes, having good genes became very important to determining their future success. Genes played a much greater role in the future success of each child.

Genes & Success



Researchers concluded that for children in harsh living conditions, it is harder for exceptional genes to "shine through."
(Eric Turkheimer, 2003)

Psychology In Action

EXPLORING THE MIND OF A KILLER

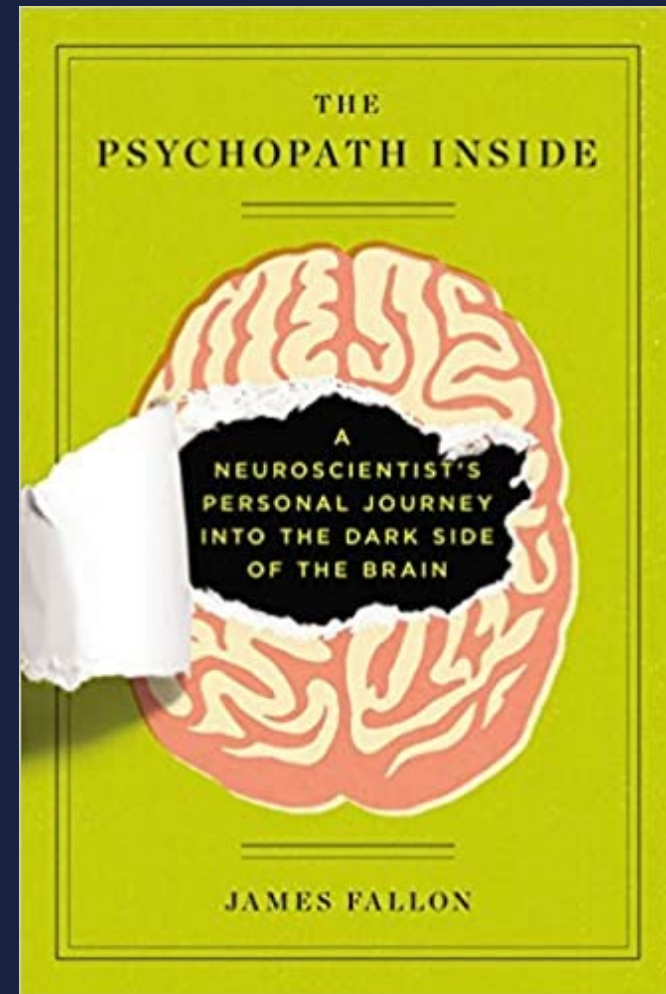
TED Talk by Jim Fallon

Exploring the mind of a killer!

How environment and nature
work together!

LINKS

Biopsychology and
Forensics/Criminal
Psychology



Why Study Psychology?

It can help you understand the people around you

Develops critical thinking

Career options

Learn how to conduct scientific research

Can help you understand yourself

A science: use research to understand and predict behaviour

Learn how to improve the quality of people's lives through research

You will be challenged!

What Subjects Go Well With Psychology?

In short: everything.

There are no rules. Due to its multidisciplinary approach, those who enjoy sciences, arts and humanities are well suited.

The subject is a unique blend of scientific theories and process with a qualitative understanding of how culture and social interaction impacts behaviour.

Psychology is considered a 'science/maths' A-level by universities.

Common subject combinations are Psychology...

- + ANY SCIENCE, INCLUDING MATHS
- + SOCIAL SCIENCES: ECONOMICS, GEOGRAPHY, POLITICS, HISTORY
- + HUMANITIES: GEOGRAPHY, ENGLISH, HISTORY, POLITICS, RS, LANGUAGES
- + CREATIVE ARTS: ART, DESIGN, DRAMA

The Qualification

Exam Board: AQA

Topics Studied

Formal Assessment: 3 2-hr papers

Linear A-levels:

Exams at the end of Upper Sixth

Types of question: multiple choice,
short answer, extended writing

There is no coursework

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Social Psychology | Forensic/Criminal |
| Cognitive Psychology | Sport |
| Behavioural Psychology | Health/Addiction Psychology |
| Psychodynamic Psychology | Obedience/Conformity |
| Biological Psychology | Clinical Psychology |
| Humanistic Psychology | Gender |
| Attachment/Child Development | Stress |
| Relationships | |

Psychology In Action

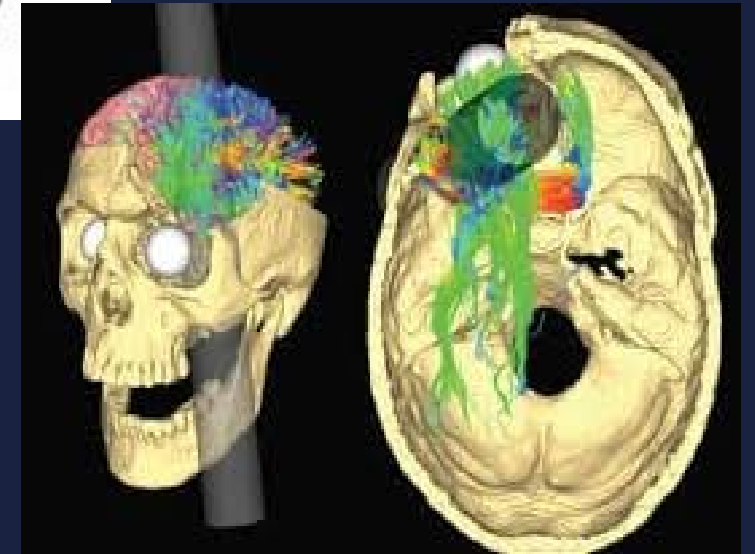
DAMAGE TO THE PREFRONTAL CORTEX THE CASE OF PHINEAS GAGE

First reported case of Traumatic
Brain Injury to Prefrontal Cortex

Led to personality changes ('no
longer Gage')

Ability to reason, particularly
within social context, seriously
impaired

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)



To Spark Your Interest

THE HIDDEN BRAIN PODCAST

Helps curious people understand the world - and themselves. It reveals the hidden patterns that drive human behaviour.

BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (BPS)

Research this site, find out about the history of the discipline and the careers that could open up.

www.bps.org.uk/public

UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE WITH A SPLIT BRAIN

Fascinating research in biopsychology – why not find out what it is:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEdug0wAgd4

Scan To Find Out More



What's your attachment style? Is there a problem with this self reporting method?

Another test with a serious real-life application



Try this Stroop test experiment and its interesting variations



Scan here for the interpretation and which part of the brain is struggling to process