

## Coombe Wood Year 12 Bridging Work

**SUBJECT: A-Level Psychology**

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### **Course Overview**

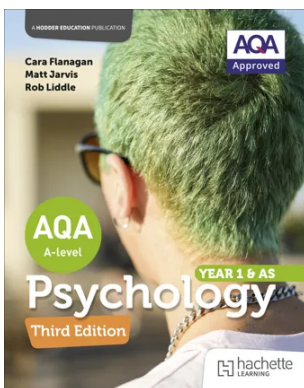
At Coombe Wood, you will study A-Level Psychology with the **AQA exam board**. This summer bridging work will give you an overview of the **main approaches in Psychology** that you will explore next year:

- Biological Approach
- Cognitive Approach
- Social Psychology
- Behaviourism
- Psychodynamic Approach

Follow this link to the specification as well as examples of exam papers and further resources/course information:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/a-level/psychology-7182/specification/specific-approaches-at-a-glance>

**We recommend you purchase the following textbook for this subject area:**



AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS Student Book: 3rd Edition

**Available at :**

<https://www.hachettelearning.com/psychology/aqa-psychology-for-a-level-year-1-and-as-third-edition>

### **Suggested wider reading:**

- *AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS Student Book: 2nd Edition*
- *The Psychology Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained* – Nigel Benson
- *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* – Oliver Sacks
- *Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behaviour* – Richard D. Gross

### **Podcasts:**

- BBC Radio 4 All in the Mind - *exploring the limits and potential of the human mind.*

## Websites:

- The British Psychological Society - <https://www.bps.org.uk/public/what-is-psychology>
- The Sigmund Freud Museum - <https://www.freud.org.uk/learn/discover-sigmund-freud/life-and-work/>

**All bridging work must be completed by 16/9 and forms part of your Pupil Passport at Coombe Wood Sixth Form.**

## BRIDGING TASKS

### Task 1: Introduction to Psychology

Watch this introduction to psychology video:  
[What is Psychology and Why Is It Important?](#)

Answer the following questions:

- What is Psychology the study of?
- Why is Psychology important for society?
- Which careers might you pursue with a Psychology degree?

### Task 2: Social Psychology – Obedience

Watch: [Milgram's Experiment on Obedience](#)

Answer the following:

- Why was Milgram interested in studying obedience?
- What factors do you think influence obedience? Do they affect everyone in the same way?
- In what way was this experiment important for society?
- In what ways was this experiment unethical?
- Would you carry out a similar experiment? If so, how would you change it to make it more ethical?

### Task 3: Behaviourism – Classical Conditioning

Watch: [Pavlov's Experiment](#)

Answer the following:

- What was the **neutral stimulus** in Pavlov's experiment?
- What was the **conditioned stimulus** that produced salivation after conditioning?
- How did the conditioned stimulus produce salivation?
- Why did Pavlov use a dog rather than another animal?
- Do you think this experiment was ethical? Why or why not?

#### **Task 4: Psychodynamic Approach – Sigmund Freud**

Visit:

- [Freud Museum Virtual Tour](#)
- [Freud's Life and Work](#)

Answer the following:

- How did Freud explain mental illness?

#### **Task 5: Biological Psychology – The Brain and Perception**

Watch: [How the Brain Communicates with the External World](#)

Answer the following:

- How does the brain communicate with the external world?
- Is reality what our senses perceive, or is it something else?
- Why might someone's perception of you differ from your own perception of yourself?

#### **Task 6: Criminal Psychology – Nature and Responsibility**

Watch: [Prof Adrian Raine on Serial Killers](#)

Answer the following:

- Are some people predisposed to criminal behaviour? Why or why not?
- If so, can they be held criminally responsible for their actions?
- If you could ask Professor Raine two questions, what would they be?

#### **Task 7: Cognitive Psychology – Memory and Case Studies**

Watch: [The Case of Clive Wearing](#)

Answer the following:

- What happened to Clive Wearing?
- What can he remember, and what can he not remember?
- How can he still play the piano, despite severe memory loss?

Read:

- [Tutor2U: Types of Memory](#)
- [Simply Psychology: Short-Term Memory](#)

Then answer:

- What type(s) of memory were affected in Clive Wearing's case?
- How do case studies like this improve our understanding of memory?
- What are the limitations of using case studies in psychological research?

