

Psychology A-Level and IB Diploma – bridging the gap from GCSE to Sixth form
Summer 2022

To complete the introduction to psychology, you will need to create a FREE account using the website InThinking. This applies to BOTH A-Level and IB Students as there is a lot of crossover in subject content.

This code will give you access to a digital textbook and resources on the IB Psychology site “InThinking” by John Crane. Type this code EXACTLY as it appears below in the top bar of your browser (the last digit is a five by the way):

Student.thinkib.net/group/CDKLMY5

You will be taken to this initial login screen:



From the column on the left hand side, select “PSYCHOLOGY TEXTBOOK”

You will now be looking at this screen:



Now click the hyperlink that says

Chapter 1: Research in Psychology

You will now be looking at this page (with a 5-digit reference number at the top = 22380)



Click the hyperlink that says

Chapter 1.1 Introducing Psychology

Psychology A-Level and IB Diploma – bridging the gap from GCSE to Sixth form Summer 2022

You should now be on this page
(reference 22881)



Direct access via: <https://www.student.thinkib.net/psychology/page/22881/introducing-psychology>

Read and make notes on this page, stopping to think about the coloured boxes: TOK is ‘theory of knowledge’ and relates mostly to IB students but is useful for everyone, and ATL is ‘attitudes to learning’, getting you thinking about the material.

On each page you’ll see TOK and ATL boxes that look like this:

TOK: Is psychology a science?

The debate about whether psychology is a science rages on the internet. It is without a doubt that psychologists use the scientific method. So, why the debate?

Unlike other sciences, psychology has failed to produce a cumulative body of knowledge that has a clear conceptual core that is consensually agreed upon by mainstream psychological experts. It is the lack of a core, accepted desire to be labeled a "science."

- What are some of the core ideas that define other sciences – such as biology, different from the study of human behaviour?
- Is it important that psychology makes use of the scientific method? Why or why not?

ATL: Thinking critically

Thinking about testability

For each of the following statements, think about whether this is "testable" or not. If so, how would you be able to test it to see whether it is "true" or not? What are the problems with testing these claims?

1. Cold weather makes you sick.
2. Married couples are happier than single people.
3. Playing online games makes you smarter.
4. Eating foods containing high levels of sugar can affect your concentration on a test.

At the bottom of most pages there is a “Checking for understanding” multiple-choice quiz.

You can check your answers to each question to see if you have understood the contents of the page.

Checking for understanding

Prejudice is an example of a(n) ...

- Physiological process
- Emotion
- Behaviour
- Attitude

Which of the following is not a characteristic of a good theory?

- Its concepts can be measured
- It is able to be empirically tested
- It predicts behaviour

Check

Psychology A-Level and IB Diploma – bridging the gap from GCSE to Sixth form
Summer 2022

Use the menu or the direct links below to go through these sections:

Chapter 1.1 Introducing Psychology

(Page ref 22889)



Chapter 1.1 Introducing psychology

This chapter looks at the nature of psychology. The key topics of study are:

- The scientific nature of psychology
- What makes a good theory in psychology?
- What do psychologists do?
- Whom do psychologists study?
- Ethical considerations in research

Chapter 1.2 Quantitative Research Methods

(Page ref 23361)



Chapter 1.2 Quantitative research methods

This chapter focuses on quantitative research methods - experiments and correlational studies. The key topics of study are:

- The difference between quantitative and qualitative methods
- The experimental method
- The nature of correlational research

Chapter 1.3 Qualitative Research Methods

(Page ref 23362)



Chapter 1.3 Qualitative research methods

This chapter focuses on qualitative research methods - that is, observations, interviews and case studies. The key topics of study are:

- How observations, interviews and case studies are carried out
- How useful are qualitative methods in understanding human behaviour?

You are also free to look round the InThinking website - I've enabled most of the relevant sections and you can see what a range of material you will be covering on the course.

The next page has details on a MOOC (massive open online course) about memory and the movies. Memory is covered at both A-Level and IB, so this is very relevant and compulsory to complete if you would like to study psychology with us at AES.

Online interactive course:

Understanding memory: explaining the psychology of memory through the movies

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/memory-and-movies>



Understanding Memory: Explaining the Psychology of Memory through Movies | Coursera

Learn Understanding Memory: Explaining the Psychology of Memory through Movies from Wesleyan University. Welcome to Understanding Memory. Someone once said that memory is fascinating because sometimes we forget what we want to remember, sometimes ...

www.coursera.org

There is also a free 'Coursera' App for the iPad/iPhone so you can learn on the move

Please complete this [free online psychology course](#) (5 weeks x 1 hour per week).

You do not have to pay the fee for the certificate to do the course so just ignore this bit.

Registration is required – you will need an internet connection and a valid school email address. A confirmation email will be sent for verification and you set a password for your account.

The course uses mostly videos as distance learning and is designed to take about one hour a week for five weeks. It also includes some interactive memory experiments you can join in with and try things out for yourself so a small notepad is recommended.

You can choose to learn at your own pace – you do not have to strictly do an hour a week. Ideally we would like to see evidence of active involvement in a discussion (there's a button for each week) – asking or answering questions or making a comment.

This course will introduce key concepts of the cognitive approach in psychology as well as exploring remembering and forgetting with some applied aspects e.g. amnesia, dementia.

There are five 'weekly' quizzes and you must score 80% or over to pass. Once you have passed all five please take a screenshot of your results (with your login name clearly visible) and print a copy – this will be your entry visa to the sixth form course.

We will be referring to the contents of the course during lessons in September.
