

Psychology

Maths in A Level Psychology

One of the most important things you can do to prepare is ensure you are confident on the following math skills, this will not be taught to you, it is expected that you can do the following, so spend some of your gained time making sure you are prepared for the maths in Psychology, it is worth 10% of your overall grade.

Recognise and use expressions in decimal and standard form	
Use ratios	
Use fractions	
Use percentages	
Estimate results	
Use appropriate significant figures	
Calculate and interpret means	
Calculate and interpret modes	
Calculate and interpret medians	
Assess the most appropriate measure of central tendency to use	
Calculate and interpret ranges	
Interpret standard deviations	
Construct and interpret frequency tables	
Construct and interpret graphs	
Understand and interpret correlation coefficients	
Understand probability	
Know the characteristics of normal and skewed distribution	
Understand and use algebraic symbols e.g. <, <<	
Solve simple algebraic equations	

FILMS

12 Angry Men (U)

Specification Links: Paper 1 - Social Psychology; Minority Influence.

Story line: A jury deliberates behind closed doors on the fate of someone accused of murder. One lone dissenter within the jury (played by Henry Fonda) pleads a compelling case to convince the other eleven jurors that this is not a clear-cut case, unveiling and challenging prejudices and preconceptions as they arise in the debate.

The Experimenter (12)

Specification Links: Paper 1 – Social Psychology; Obedience to Authority, Explanations for Obedience, Milgram. Paper 2 – Research Methods; Experimental Method, Types of Experiments.

Story line: Based on the true story of Stanley Milgram's academic investigations on obedience to authority at Yale University during the 1960s. Shows simulated and archived footage of his original experiment as detailed on the specification as well as other investigations such as the lost-letter experiment.

A Beautiful Mind (PG)

Specification Links: Paper 1 – Psychopathology; Definitions of Abnormality. Paper 3 – Schizophrenia; Diagnosis and Classification of Schizophrenia, Explanations for Schizophrenia, The Interactionist Approach to Schizophrenia.

Story line: The film follows the life of John Forbes Nash, a maths genius, who suffers from a severe mental illness, the symptoms of which are consistent with schizophrenia. As the story progresses, the difficulties of coping are portrayed alongside the importance of having social support in dealing with the disorder.

Dangerous Method (15)

Specification Links: Paper 2 – Approaches in Psychology; The Psychodynamic Approach: the role of the unconscious, the structure of personality, defence mechanisms.

Story line: Based in Vienna and a Zurich psychiatric hospital, this film follows Keira Knightley's character, Sabina, as she undergoes treatment from Dr Carl Jung who is using Sigmund Freud's cure of talking therapy to treat patients with 'hysteria'. Sabina is successfully cured using psychoanalysis and goes on to lead a fulfilling life with Jung himself.

Shutter Island (15)

Specification Links: Paper 1 – Psychopathology; Definitions of Abnormality. Paper 3 – Schizophrenia; Diagnosis and Classification of Schizophrenia, Treatment of Schizophrenia. Paper 2 – Biopsychology; Localisation of function in the brain.

Story line: Based in an American mental hospital for the clinically and criminally insane during the 1950's. A psychological thriller with twists and turns which creates an elaborate role-play into the world of clinical psychology which, at the last moment, reveals the narrative is actually centred around a psychosis of the main character, Teddy. Not to give the game away (sorry).

TV SHOWS

Derren Brown – The Heist (Anything by Derren Brown really)

Specification Links: Paper 1 – Social Psychology; Obedience to Authority, Explanations for Obedience, Milgram

Babies - Netflix

Specification Links: Paper 1 – Attachment. Paper 3 - Gender

100 Humans - Life's Questions Answered - Netflix

Specification Links: All papers - Research methods.

Love is blind – Netflix

Specification Links: All papers - Research methods

*Look at the methods used in this experiment. Are the participants acting in certain ways because they are being filmed? Are they being paid to take part? What are their motivations? These are known as **demand characteristics**.*

The Mind Explained - Netflix

Specification Links: Paper 1 – Memory, Psychopathology Paper 2 - Biopsychology

PODCASTS

“Hidden Brain”

NPR science correspondent Shankar Vedantam hosts a weekly podcast called “HIDDEN BRAIN” focusing on social sciences to explain human behavior. Vedantam interviews psychologists and expert scientists to explore different facets of the brain and behavior. In a recent episode, John Hibbing, a political scientist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said that he can tell if someone tends to lean toward a liberal or conservative point of view based on a brain scan. This claim suggests that political views could be in part influenced by our biology in addition to our environments.

“Speaking of Psychology”

“SPEAKING OF PSYCHOLOGY,” produced by the American Psychological Association, takes a deep dive into psychological research of contemporary issues. Each week, the rotating cast of hosts interviews scientists and medical professionals about a specific topic. During the episodes, the host and guest will offer advice to users to help them overcome issues related to psychology, like using critical cognitive thinking to avoid clicking phishing emails.

“Waking Up”

Sam Harris, a famous author who holds a degree in philosophy and a Ph.D. in neuroscience, hosts a weekly podcast called “WAKING UP.” In the podcast, Harris interviews guests who use psychological principles in their professions but don’t necessarily practice psychology in a clinical setting. In one episode, Harris interviews a former FBI hostage negotiator to discuss how he got inside the mind of criminals. In another interview with author Yuval Harari, Harris and his guest discuss the importance of meditation and the desire to update our beliefs about human civilization.

“All in The Mind”

BBC Radio’s “ALL IN THE MIND” examines various psychology topics each week, like tolerance in the brain and exercise to prevent depression. Claudia Hammond, a radio personality with college degrees in applied and health psychology, hosts a wide-variety of guests who work within the psychology field. In recent episodes, Hammond and her guests have broken down the results of the LONELINESS EXPERIMENT, an experiment designed to better understand how loneliness impacts people. Topics included why young people feel the loneliest and how people can feel less lonely.