

# AQA GCSE Psychology



The AQA course is broken into two different areas of study:

**Paper 1**

**Cognition &  
Behaviour**

**YEAR 10**

**Paper 2**

**Social Context &  
Behaviour**

**YEAR 11**

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# What are we learning, and when? (Y10)

## Topic 1 - Memory

- Processes of memory: encoding (input) storage and retrieval (output)
- Structures of memory
- Memory as an active process

## Topic 2 - Perception

- Sensation and perception
- Visual cues and constancies
- Gibson's direct theory of perception – the influence of nature
- Visual illusions
- Gregory's constructivist theory of perception – the influence of nurture
- Factors affecting perception

## Topic 3 - Development

- Early brain development
- Piaget's stage theory and the development of intelligence
- The role of Piaget's theory in education
- The effects of learning on development

## Topic 4 - Research Methods (1)

- Formulation of testable hypotheses
- Types of variable
- Sampling methods
- Designing research
- Correlation
- Research procedures
- Planning and conducting research
- Ethical considerations

## End of Year 10 Mock

- This will assess all content covered over the year.
- It will be a full 1 hour 45 min paper for 100 marks.

## Independent Research Project

- Students will have an opportunity to conduct their own research and put their learning into context.

# What are we learning, and when? (Y11)

## Year 10 Mock Review

- Students will have detailed feedback on their mock exams, make improvements to their script based on feedback and identify next steps for revision.

## Topic 7 - Brain & Neuropsychology

- Structure and function of the nervous system
- Neuron structure and function
- Structure and function of the brain
- An introduction to neuropsychology

## Topic 5 - Language, Thought & Communication

- The possible relationship between language and thought
- The effect of language and thought on our view of the world
- Differences between human and animal communication
- Non-verbal communication
- Explanations of non-verbal behaviour

## Topic 8 - Psychological Problems

- An introduction to mental health
- How the incidence of significant mental health problems changes over time
- Effects of significant mental health problems on individuals and society
- Characteristics of clinical depression
- Theories of depression
- Interventions or therapies for depression
- Characteristics of addiction
- Theories of addiction
- Interventions or therapies for addiction

## Topic 6 - Social Influence

- Conformity
- Obedience
- Prosocial behaviour
- Crowd and collective behaviour

## Topic 9 - Research Methods (2)

- Quantitative and qualitative data
- Primary and secondary data
- Computation
- Descriptive statistics
- Interpretation and display of quantitative data
- Normal distributions

Paper 1	Paper 2
Written exam Summer 2026 Time: 1hr 45 mins 100 Marks	Written exam Summer 2026 Time: 1hr 45 mins 100 Marks
<b>Topics Assessed</b>	<b>Topics Assessed</b>
<p>Memory (25)</p> <p>Perception (25)</p> <p>Development (25)</p> <p>Research Methods (25)</p>	<p>Social Influence (25)</p> <p>Language, Thought &amp; Communication (25)</p> <p>The Brain &amp; Neuropsychology (25)</p> <p>Psychological Problems (25)</p>

## Key points

- 1. No coursework:** All of the grade will be determined by the exams.
- 2. Linear course:** This means that all of the learning is assessed in May/June 2026.
- 3. Key Theories & Key Studies:** There are several of each in every topic. These are aspects of content that the exam board can examine through essay-based questions as well as shorter answer questions.
- 4. Key Terms:** This is key, your children must revise the spellings and meanings of keywords. Students are assessed on the frequency and accuracy of their use.
- 5. Extended Writing Skills:** Students are required to produce at least 2 essay responses (approx. 1 ½ pages) per exam alongside other shorter and extended writing questions.
- 6. Maths Skills:** Students are required to develop fundamental maths skills throughout the course. These include; calculating percentages, fractions and averages, interpreting and plotting data using graph.

The full GCSE Specification can be found by Googling: "AQA GCSE Psychology Specification"

You can also access a range of past papers and mark schemes for free from here.

# Progress and support

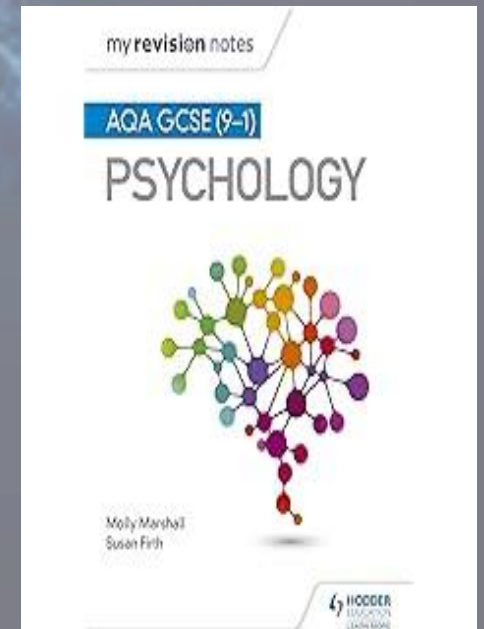
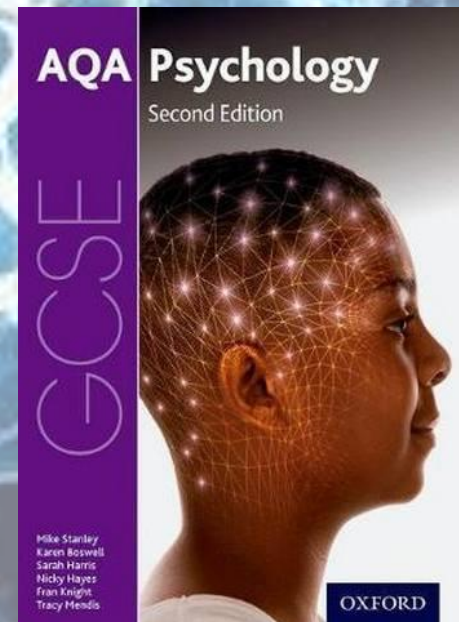
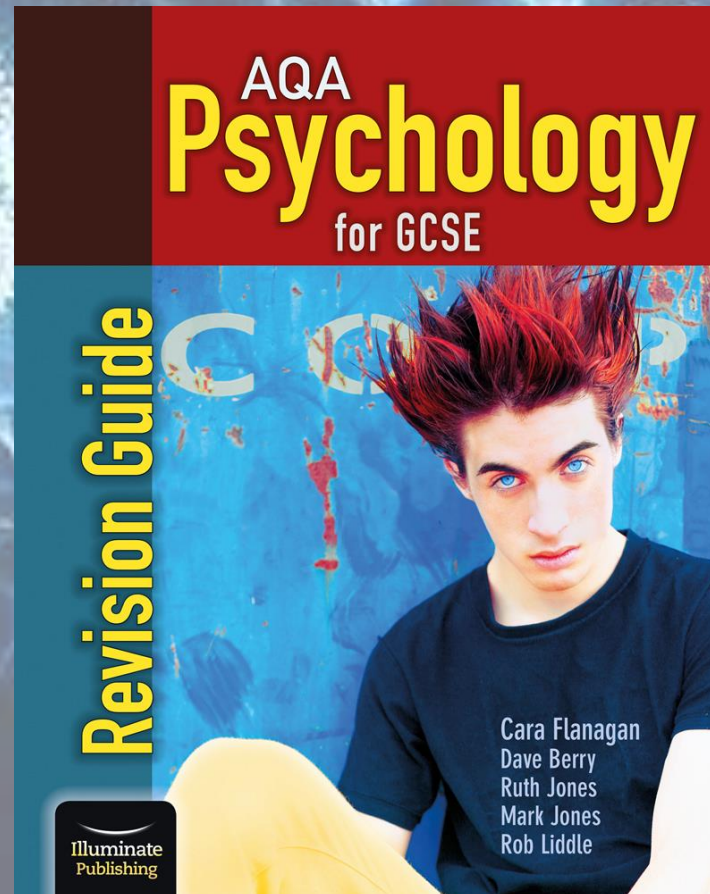
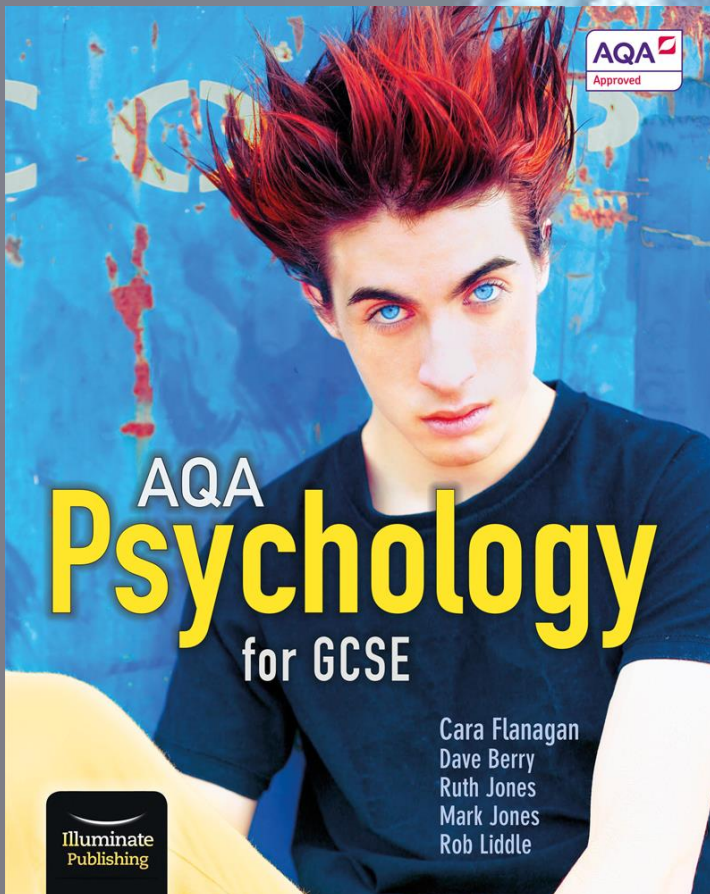
1. Each topic will be assessed by an end of unit test, and student progress will be measured against the scores from these.
2. These assessments are cumulative; meaning that each assessment will also contain content from each of the previous topics covered. E.g. Assessment 1: Memory only, Assessment 2: Perception & Memory, etc.
3. Additionally, there will be three sets of mocks: Year 10 – June 2025 and Year 11 – November 2026 and March 2026
4. All lesson resources and support/revision materials are uploaded to Teams regularly. Students have been shown how to access this.
5. In Year 11, after-school revision session will be made available to those that want/need them.
6. Parental Contact: Expectations of students are high. If a student misses their target grade by more than one grade in an end of unit assessment, contact with home will be made to establish how we can support your child more effectively. The student will also be asked to resit the assessment at another time.

## Course books and revision

### Approximate Cost: (Amazon)

- AQA GCSE Psychology Textbook (Illuminate): £25 New or £17 Used
- AQA GCCE Psychology Revision Guide (Illuminate): £17 New
- AQA GCSE Psychology (Oxford): £28 New or £21 Used
- AQA GCSE (9-1) Psychology: My Revision Notes: £11 New or £10 Used

**N.B. FREE REVISION GUIDE FOR EACH PAPER ON TEAMS FOR ALL STUDENTS**



Any Questions?

