



PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL SUPER-CURRICULAR

AIMING FOR THE TOP AND ASPIRING HIGH



Reading - Non Fiction

Bad Science and Bad Pharma by Ben Goldacre

This book will open your eyes to what is wrong with much popular so-called research and give you a clearer idea of what science is all about.

Love at Goon Park: Harry Harlow and the science of affection by Deborah Blum

Interesting insight into the man and his research – it is said that psychologists often investigate the aspect of life that is most troubling to them and for Harlow it was love and affection.

Opening Skinner's Box by Lauren Slater

A detailed look at ten classic studies including Loftus, Milgram and Rosenhan. There have been criticisms of some of Slater's claims but it is an interesting read.

Quirkology by Richard Wiseman

This book explores questions such as 'What is the funniest joke in the world?' and 'What's the best first date to go on if you want someone to fall in love with you?'. Wiseman answers these questions using psychological research. It's a fun read but useful for evaluating the research methodology used.

Sex, lies and brain scans by Barbara Sahakian and Julia Gottwald

This book looks at fMRI and what it reveals about what is really going on in our minds. It covers topics such as how neuroscience impacts society and the use of fMRI in marketing. A really good read in the swiftly advancing area of psychology.

The Psychopath Test by Jon Ronson

The book investigates whether psychopathy can be diagnosed with a test and whether the label really means something.

Reading - Fiction

Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley

Frankenstein creates a monster, a tale that reflects 19th century fears of the potential outcomes of scientific research.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

School boys marooned on an island become savages – an exploration of what true human nature might be.

One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest

Criminal Randy McMurphy opts for a 'sentence' in a psychiatric hospital instead of prison and tries to rebel against the institution. Insights into 1960s institutional regimes.

Reading - Case Studies

As nature made him: The boy who was raised as a girl by John Calapinto

The story of a boy whose penis was burned off during infancy and the development of his gender identity. Psychologist John Money believed gender was a matter of socialisation and stepped in to 'help' the boy.

Genie: Escape from a silent childhood by Russ Rymer

The extraordinary tale of a girl tied to a chair for much of her early life and an analysis of what happened after she was found. Provides insights into attachment and the ethics of psychological research.

Memory's ghost: The strange tale of Mr M. and the nature of memory by Philip Hiltz

HM lost the ability to form short-term memories when parts of his hippocampi were removed. This is a record of his life, including how he was studied by psychologists.

Reading - Wider reading

Bounce by Matthew Syed

An easy read about dealing with failure, the myth of talent and the power of practice.

Flow by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

The classic work on how to achieve happiness.

Dibs In Search of Self by V. Axline

This is about the early effects of trauma and the use of play therapy as a means to return to normality.

Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman

The author states that our minds are composed of two parts-an instinctive and primal section, and a more critical and rational section.

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell

How the world's most successful people became successful.

Authentic Happiness by Martin Seligman

The author shows us that happiness is more a product of internal conditions than external factors.

Blink by Malcolm Gladwell

The power of thinking without thinking. Assessments that we make in the blink of an eye can be as good as those we make after much deliberation.

Mapping Murder: The Secrets of Geographical Profiling by David Canter

From cases such as Jack the Ripper and Jill Dando, to the murders of Fred West; geographical profiling and how this new approach to solving crime is changing the way police work and our understanding of the criminal mind.

How the mind works by Steven Pinker

Why do memories fade? Why do we lose our tempers? Why do fools fall in love? Why do we pursue higher callings like art, religion and philosophy? This is an advanced read written by a world expert.

The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious by Carl Jung

Our minds are connected to a deeper layer of consciousness that speaks in terms of imagery and myth.

The Games People Play: The Psychology of Human Relationships by Eric Berne

People play games as a substitute for real intimacy, and every game, however unpleasant, has a payoff for one or both players.

The Will to Meaning by Victor Frankl

The conscious acceptance of suffering or fate can be transformed into one of our greatest achievements.

The Tale of the Duelling Neurosurgeons by Sam Kean

For centuries, scientists could only study the brain by waiting for misfortune to strike and to see how the victims changed when different parts of the brain were destroyed. Perfect for the biopsychology topic; brain lateralisation, neural activity and brain localisation.

Behave: Why humans behave as they do by Robert M Sapolsky

Every act of human behaviour has multiple layers of causation, spiralling back seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years, even centuries, right back to the dawn of time and the origins of our species.

Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari

Earth is 4.5 billion years old. In just a fraction of that time, one species among countless others has conquered it: us. Through evolutionary psychology this book looks at who we are, how we got here and where we're going.

Listening Tasks - BBC Radio 4

All in the Mind with Claudia Hammond

Current developments in psychology revisiting popular ideas. Over 200 episodes available [here](#).

Mind Changers with Claudia Hammond

Looking at classic theory and studies such as Carl Roger's ideas or locus of control research [here](#).

The Life Scientific with Jim Al-Khalili

Gives a sense of how people developed their careers and what it is like to be a scientist, which often includes psychologists [here](#).

Watching Tasks - TED Talks

The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil by Philip Zimbardo

[This clip](#) will consolidate your understanding of Zimbardo's prison study.

The Psychology of Tyranny: Did Milgram Get It Wrong? by Alex Haslam

[This clip](#) will consolidate and deepen your understanding of Milgram's study of obedience.

How reliable is your memory? by Elizabeth Loftus

[This clip](#) will consolidate your knowledge and understanding of eye witness testimony.

Watching Tasks – Films

A Beautiful Mind (2001)

Based on the life of mathematical genius John Nash who experienced a schizophrenic breakdown.

Also recommended by Maths and Economics.

Good Will Hunting (1997)

The main character experienced abuse and privation as child and the film shows how he comes to realise his full potential.

Three Identical Strangers (2018)

A documentary film about identical triplet brothers adopted as infants by separate families reveals how their adoption had been part of an undisclosed scientific "nature versus nurture" study of the development of genetically identical siblings raised in differing socioeconomic circumstances.

Student Led Tasks – Lectures

British Psychological Society

The British Psychological Society has various events and webinars to attend online which range from futures and careers advice e.g. BPS - Become a Health Psychologist to specific topics of interest e.g. Autism and Mental Health awareness: [Events | BPS](#)

The New School of psychology and counselling

A collection of lectures, podcasts and videos from The New School of psychology and counselling is a centre of excellence for training and research in existential psychotherapy, counselling psychology and coaching: [Lectures & Talks](#)

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

The Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science offers a range of online and in-person [events](#) , across a broad spectrum of topics e.g. LSE IQ podcast - [Why Do People Believe in Conspiracy Theories? With Professor Bradley Franks](#)

Student Led Tasks – Volunteer

Mencap

Mencap offer a wide range of volunteering [opportunities](#) working with people with disabilities. The particular areas that would be of most relevance would be a befriender or support worker role. Mencap also offer work with young people which may be useful.

Mind

Volunteering at Mind can be a really rewarding and valuable experience – and there's probably more ways of doing it than you might think: click [here](#).

Childline

Search for available [roles](#) near you by entering your postcode.

Vinspired

A useful link that could be used to search for any volunteering opportunity from gardening at a local hospice to dog walking for local elderly residents: [Leaders in youth volunteer opportunities](#)

Student Led Tasks - Work Experience

Springpod

Choose from an area of psychology that you are most passionate about learning more about and sign up to this virtual work experience programme: Forensic, health, sport, clinical psychology to choose from. [Virtual Work Experience/ Psychology Work Experience](#)

UCL

The Department of Experimental Psychology offers hands-on research projects where students have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution towards cutting-edge research in neuroscience and other areas of psychology [here](#).

Work shadowing

Shadow someone to find out more about their job. It could be useful or even arranging a meeting with them to discuss what their career entails. [The BPS allows you to search for psychologists in your area](#).

Student Led Tasks - Essay competitions

The Minds Underground™ Psychology Essay Competition & Challenge

[This competition](#) is open to students in Year 12 and provides students with an opportunity to engage in university-level research, hone their writing & argumentative skills and prepare for university interviews. Entrants must choose 1 question to answer.

John Locke Institute global essay competition

The John Locke Institute run a [global essay competition](#) each year and invites students to explore a wide range of challenging and interesting questions beyond the confines of the school curriculum. It also gives students the chance to have their work assessed by experts.

The Royal Holloway Psychology Competition

This is a national Psychology [competition](#) for schools, enabling Year 12 students to pit their psychology skills against pupils from across the UK. It's an opportunity for you to showcase your understanding of Psychology and usually ends with an in-person final.

Student Led Tasks - Summer schools

Minds Underground

Minds Underground brings Oxbridge university preparation summer schools to you through virtual courses in a wide range of subjects including psychology. Unfortunately, there is a cost but more details can be found [here](#).

Discover Bath

Discover Bath is available to all Year 12 students free of charge and is a summer programme which aims to give prospective students a taste of first-year life and study at the University of Bath. Courses include criminology and psychology. Students must meet this widening participation [criteria](#).

UCL Summer School

Every year, UCL welcomes students from universities around the world to study for 3 or 6 weeks in July and August. Modules include business psychology and how the brain works and what can go wrong. Click here for [info](#).