

Psychology Media Project

As part of your preparation for starting Psychology in Year 12, you will be expected to complete a series of short reports about psychology in the media. There are many TV Shows, Films, Books, Magazines and Websites about Psychology - it will be your task to watch, read and research different areas of Psychology and write a short report about each of them. At the end of this there are some guideline for how to write a film report.

Below is not an extensive list - but it should help to get you started. It is designed to get you interested in Psychology for September.....

Also if you are unsure that you should be watching something – please check with your parents – these are suggestions not instructions!!

FILMS

12 Angry Men (U)

Specification Links: AS/A Level 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 Wave (Die Welle) (15)

Specification Links: AS/A Level Paper 1 - Social Psychology; Obedience to Authority, Types of Conformity, Explanations of Conformity, Minority Influence, Social Change.

Story line: German (subtitled) fictionalised adaptation inspired by the true story of teacher Ron Jones's experiment in America during the 1960s. During activities week, Herr Rainer Wenger, the teacher leading sessions on autocratic society, tasks his students with constructing their own autocracy in order to understand national socialism. As the week progresses, things begin to get out of hand and a semblance of a Nazi Germany totalitarian movement becomes apparent.

The Experimenter (12)

Specification Links: AS/A Level Paper 1 – Social Psychology; Obedience to Authority, Explanations for Obedience, Milgram. A Level 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: AS Paper 2/A Level Paper 1 – Psychopathology; Definitions of Abnormality, A Level Paper 3 (Option 2) – 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: A Level 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: AS Paper 2/A Level Paper 1 – Psychopathology; Definitions of Abnormality A Level Paper 3 (Option 2) – Schizophrenia; Diagnosis and Classification of Schizophrenia, Treatment of Schizophrenia, A Level 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).

The Notebook (12)

Specification Links: AS Paper 1/A Level Paper 1 – Memory; Short-Term Memory, Long-Term Memory, Explanations for Forgetting. A Level Paper 3 (Option 1) – Relationships; Theories of Romantic Relationships.

Story line: A story of unwavering love in the face of challenges depicting the impact of dementia on both the patient and the family. As Allie's dementia progresses throughout the film, despite employing strategies to delay progression of the disease and enhance her memory function, she becomes increasingly distressed at the extent of her memory lapses.

50 First Dates

Specification Links: AS Paper 1/A Level Paper 1 – Memory; Short-Term Memory, Long-Term Memory, Encoding, Capacity and Duration, Explanations for Forgetting. A Level Paper 3 (Option 1) – Relationships; Theories of Romantic Relationships.

Story line: This film follows Drew Barrymore's character as she suffers with short-term memory loss following a car accident. Her family go to elaborate levels to help her avoid the grave reality of her condition and collude in her belief that time has stopped and restarted over and over again every 24 hours. Towards the end of the film there is a glimmer of hope that she is, in fact, able to encode new memories and fall in love with Adam Sandler's character.

The Bodyguard (PG)

Specification Links: A Level Paper 3 (Option 1) – Relationships; Parasocial Relationships, Levels of Parasocial Relationships, The Absorption Addiction Model, Factors Affecting Attraction in Romantic Relationships, Theories of Romantic Relationships.

Story line: Whitney Houston plays a famous pop star who becomes the victim of threatening behaviour from a fan. This quickly descends into stalking behaviour which gets dangerously out of hand. The bodyguard hired to protect her, played by Kevin Costner, successfully fulfils his duty to keep his ward safe.

Inside out - Memory, emotion

TV SHOWS

Anything by Derren Brown - Try YouTube for this or the channel 4 website has most of his episodes

The Mind Explained - Netflix

Babies - Netflix

Attachment, gender and development.

100 Humans - Life's Questions Answered - Netflix

Research methods.

Love is blind (*if you fancy it*) - 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**.

Killer: In the Mind of Aaron Hernandez - Netflix (Specification links to aggression - A Level)

I am killer - Netflix

This might be something you wouldn't have thought of as a first pick, but psychologically, this is a very interesting topic. In *I am a Killer*, criminals who have received the death penalty relay the events for which they have been convicted from their own perspective. Speaking from death row, these criminals give you a very different side to the stories you hear about on the news. Along with the stories, the events are re-enacted without being too graphic. Do these killers feel guilty? Some do, but not all respond in a way you might want to see (with remorse).

Some come across as (surprisingly?) regular people, while others seem closer to the "stereotypical" image you may have of a murderer. This can make the series unsettling at times, but also turns it into a very compelling watch. *I am a Killer* doesn't veer either way of the judgement, you're left to make up your own mind about what has happened. How guilty do you think they are? It's a well thought-out series, and definitely interesting for anyone interested in psychology. Especially for fans of criminology, forensic psychology and social psychology; this is a good one.

Mindhunter - Netflix – this is gruesome – parental advisory!

This one is topically related to *I am a Killer*, but is set in the late 1970s. As you may know, compared to all the big fields of science – chemistry, physics, biology etc. – psychology is quite young. During the time the series is set criminal psychology and profiling were just about starting to gain serious interest. The premise of the series revolves around FBI agents and a psychologist from the FBI's behavioural science unit who interview serial killers in the hopes of gaining insight as to why these people turned out this way. They hope to be able to apply this knowledge to solving future cases.

Innsaei - Netflix

Okay before we get into this, the approximate way to pronounce this Icelandic word is 'inn-sigh-ei' (apparently). Are there any Icelandic speakers who can verify? *Innsaei* is an Icelandic concept that allows people to connect through empathy and intuition. This is a documentary in which creative people and loads of others from different walks of life go on a journey to learn more about connecting with others and finding peace amongst the stress of a hectic modern lifestyle.

Take your pills - Netflix

This is also a documentary. As opposed to *Innsaei*, *Take Your Pills* focuses on use of Adderall. Under the pressure of modern culture and a stressful lifestyle more people take drugs or supplements to get by. What are their reasons for using them? Do they think it works, and is it worth the costs and the possible risks. People discuss how and why they use it, and what side-effects they have experienced, and what possible dangers can lie in sometimes innocent looking supplements that enhance your performance.

Afflicted

In *Afflicted* people with mysterious and unusual symptoms for which there is not a clear diagnosis. It kind of relates to stigmas people with mental health face sometimes; disbelief, playing down people's suffering. In this series, people look for an explanation for what is happening to them, and ultimately, a possible cure.

Sense8

The premise of Sense8 is as follows: 8 people who have never seen each other and live spread out across the globe, get the same vision. From that moment on these 'sensates' can occasionally see, hear, feel and smell each other – and even talk to each other. In this way they can help the others out in difficult situations, as all of them have particular skills and talents.

Hannibal

Mads Mikkelsen plays the character very compellingly, gaining a mass following for his portrayal of the brilliant psychiatrist/murderer. Some may find it disturbing – who could say that a corpse being turned into a cello, and it's vocal chords being played like the strings isn't a bit... troubling – but the series is more than that. For those with an interest in psychology it provides a lot of food (haha, get it) for thought. How do people turn out the way they do? What makes a murderer a murderer?

BOOKS

There are hundreds of books about different areas of psychology. Below are some links with some interesting lists of books you might enjoy.

<https://www.sparringmind.com/psychology-books/>

<https://www.waterstones.com/category/politics-society-education/psychology>

<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/communication/10-great-psychology-books-change-your-life.html>

<https://scottjeffrey.com/best-psychology-books/>

PODCASTS

“Happier with Gretchen Rubin”

Although not a psychologist by trade, Rubin's observation of happiness and human nature makes her podcast, “HAPPIER WITH GRETCHEN RUBIN,” a must-listen. With more than 42 MILLION podcast downloads, Rubin showcases her understanding of human behavior and how she has HELPED MOTIVATE PEOPLE to accomplish their goals. Each episode, she and her co-host sister discuss tips and tricks on how to become and stay happy in life when challenges arise.

“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.

“99% Invisible”

“99% INVISIBLE” creates the full picture of a product from inception to modern day use. Hosted by Roman Mars, “99% Invisible” looks at a product or subject and digs deep into its history, life cycle, and how it’s subconsciously impacted our country. In one episode, Mars and his guest, author SELENA SLAVIC, discussed the psychological impact of urban benches. Newer benches are being made of stone and designed in a way that becomes uncomfortable over time. Urban planners have designed these benches to allow people to rest for a short time and then urge them to move on.

In addition to the six described above, there are hundreds more psychology podcasts available to users over the Internet, and more are being added every day. Find something you’re interested in and research it.

<https://www.verywellmind.com/psychology-podcasts-2794800>

VIDEOS

Type psychology into youtube and take your pick. There are TED Talks, CrashCourse videos and so much more. If you can, copy and paste the URL into your Psychology Media Project Review.

WEBSITES (LOOK AT ARTICLES)

10 Psychological Studies That Will Change What You Think You Know About Yourself..

https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.huffpost.com/entry/20-psychological-studies-_n_4098779/amp

PsychCentral

From their about page: "Psych Central is the Internet's largest and oldest independent mental health social network. Since 1995, our award-winning website has been run by mental health professionals offering reliable, trusted information and over 250 support groups to consumers."

The NeuroSkeptic column

From their website: "Neuroskeptic is a British neuroscientist who takes a skeptical look at his own field, and beyond. His blog offers a look at the latest developments in neuroscience, psychiatry and psychology through a critical lens."

Psychology Today

From their about page: "Psychology Today is devoted exclusively to everybody's favorite subject: Ourselves. On this site, we have gathered a group of renowned psychologists, academics, psychiatrists and writers to contribute their thoughts and ideas on what makes us tick. We're a live stream of what's happening in 'psychology today'."

Scientific American Mind

From Wikipedia: "Scientific American Mind is a bimonthly American popular science magazine concentrating on psychology, neuroscience, and related fields. By analyzing and revealing new thinking in the cognitive sciences, the magazine tries to focus on the biggest breakthroughs in these fields."

Research Digest

From their about page: "We digest at least one new psychology study every weekday. Published by the British Psychological Society since 2005, this blog aims to demonstrate that psychological science is fascinating and useful while also casting a critical eye over its methods."

PsyBlog

From their about page: "This website is about scientific research into how the mind works. The studies I cover have been published in reputable academic journals in many different areas of psychology."

MindHacks

From Wikipedia: "Mind Hacks is an ongoing psychology and neuroscience blog that publishes daily news and commentary on mind and brain issues. It won a Scientific American Science and Technology Web Award in 2005 and was listed as a Top 30 science blog by The Times in 2010."

The National Institute of Mental Health news page

From their about page: "The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is the lead federal agency for research on mental disorders. NIMH is one of the 27 Institutes and Centers that make up the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation's medical research agency. NIH is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)."

The Association for Psychological Science news page

From their about page: “The Association for Psychological Science (previously the American Psychological Society) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of scientific psychology and its representation at the national and international level.”

The Public Library of Science’s Mind and Brain blog

From Wikipedia: “PLOS (for Public Library of Science) is a nonprofit open access scientific publishing project aimed at creating a library of open access journals and other scientific literature under an open content license.”

Psychiatric Times

From Wikipedia: “Psychiatric Times is a medical trade publication written for an audience involved in the profession of psychiatry. It is published monthly by MJH Associates and is distributed to about 50,000 psychiatrists monthly.

Below are some more websites that are not exclusively about psychology, but often feature quality articles about psychological research.

The Conversation

From their about page: “The Conversation is an independent source of news and views, sourced from the academic and research community and delivered direct to the public.”

ScienceAlert

From their about page: “ScienceAlert is an independently run news website that covers the most important developments in the world of science and scientific research, while sharing fun, interesting information.”

Medical News Today

From their about page: “Medical News Today (MNT) is owned and operated by Healthline Media UK Ltd., a leading healthcare publishing company. There are offices in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Taiwan. MNT is within the top 10 most popular health websites worldwide, as reported by Comscore, with more than 90 million monthly visits.”

Psychology Media Project

Title:

Type of media:

Link to Psychology:

Media outline and image:

Review with links to psychology:

Psychological Accuracy	Enjoyment	Relevance to the specification	Has it improved your understanding of psychological theories?	Would you recommend it?
/10	/10	/10		

Step-by-Step Guide to How to Write a Film Review <https://edusson.com/blog/how-to-write-movie-review>

Beginnings are always the hardest. This is the point where you set the pace and determine how to approach this assignment in the most efficient manner. Here are some useful tips to kick-start the movie review writing process:

- Watch the movie or documentary with your full focus and take notes of both major and minor events and characters. It's a mistake to rely on the power of your memory only, there's always something we overlook or forget.
- Carry out a thorough research. Watching the movie isn't enough, research is equally important. Look for details such as the name of the filmmaker and his/her motivation to make that film or documentary work, locations, plot, characterization, historic events that served as an inspiration for the movie (if applicable). Basically, your research should serve to collect information that provides more depth to the review.
- Draft an outline that you will follow to write the review in a concise and cohesive fashion
- Include examples for claims you make about the movie. Where the plot is relevant to psychology, mention an example of a situation or scene when that was evident.
- Analyze the movie after you watch it. Don't start working on the review if you aren't sure you understand the film. Evaluate the movie from beginning to an end. Re-watch it, if necessary, if you find some parts confusing. Only when you understand events that happened on the screen will you find it easier to create the review.

How to organise your review:

- Introduction (with title, release date, background information)
- Summary of the story
- Links to psychology, being specific about the area of psychology, with examples.
- Opinion (supported with examples and facts from the story)
- Conclusion (announcing whether the filmmaker was successful in his/her purpose, re-state your evidence, explain how the motion picture was helpful for providing a deeper understand of course topic)