

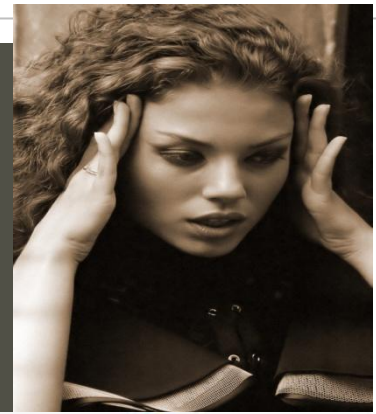


# A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY



# WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

• THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF HUMAN AND NON HUMAN ANIMALS MIND AND BEHAVIOUR



Nov '79

Jul '80

Aug '80

Mar '81

Jan '82

May '86

## PSYCHOLOGY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE



Jan '88

Apr '88

Jun '88

Jan '89



# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods
- Issues and debates in psychology
- Cognitive Development
- Schizophrenia
- Addiction





# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- Social influence – obedience, conformity and social change. We look at some controversial research here.

Why do we obey?

Would you harm someone if an authority figure asked you to?

Why do we copy others?

Who is more likely to obey/conform?

How can a minority group influence the majority?



# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- **Memory** – different types of memory and how our memory is more fragile than you would think!

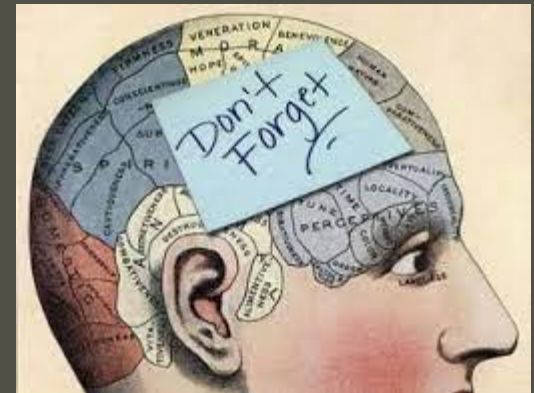
How much information can our brain hold?

What happens if we damage our memory storage?

Why do we forget information about life events, but not how to tie a shoelace?

Why do we remember less about an event if a weapon is involved?

How can we improve memory of an event?



# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- Attachment - how children form attachments and what happens if attachments aren't formed.

How do attachments with caregivers form?

What happens if an attachment doesn't form?

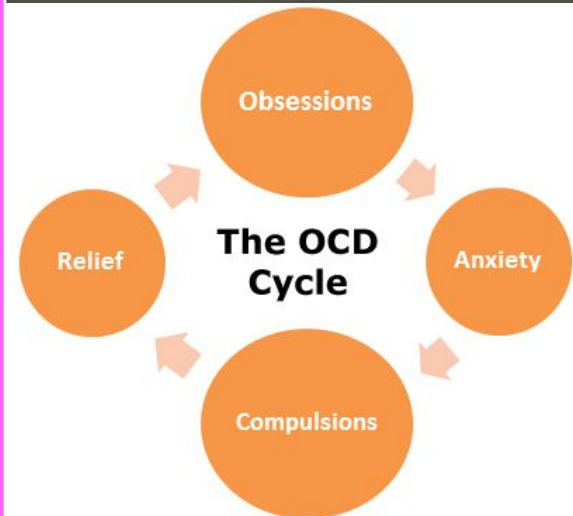
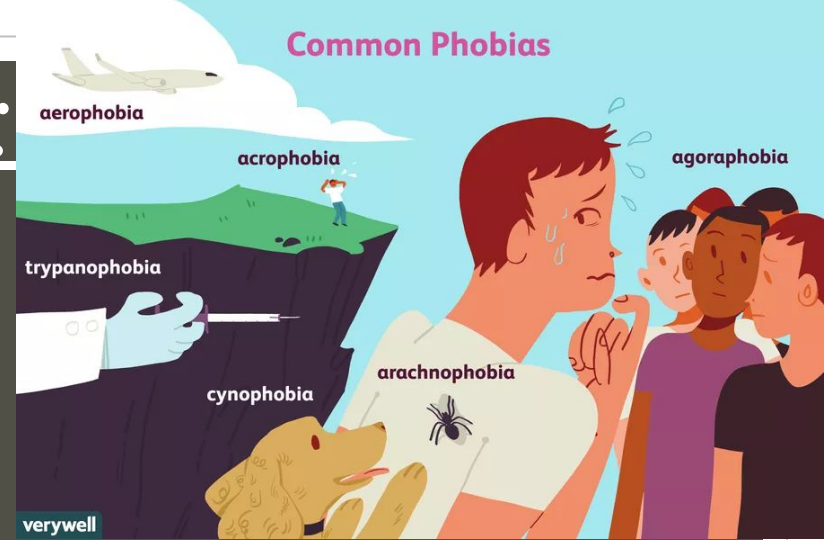
How do we assess a child's attachment?



# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- Psychopathology – within this we study OCD, depression and phobias.
- How would we consider behavior to be abnormal?
- What causes and how would we treat OCD
- What causes and how would we treat phobias?
- What causes and how would we treat depression?





# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- Approaches – different ways of explaining the same disorder/behaviour.

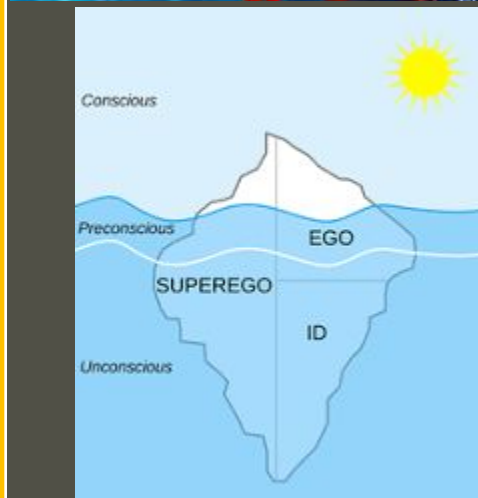
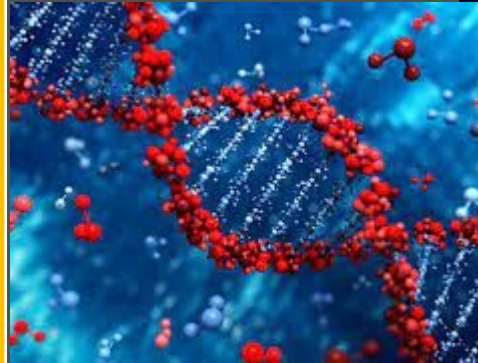
How do rewards change our behavior?

How can behavior be explained through imitation of role models?

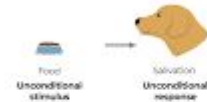
How does brain function influence our behaviour?

How do our schemas influence our behaviour?

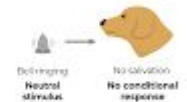
How does our unconscious influence behaviour?



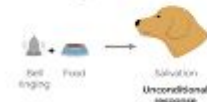
1. Before conditioning



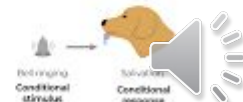
2. Before conditioning



3. During conditioning



4. After conditioning





# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- **Biopsychology** – parts of the brain, how the brain recovers from damage, biological rhythms and research into split brain patients.

What is synaptic transmission?

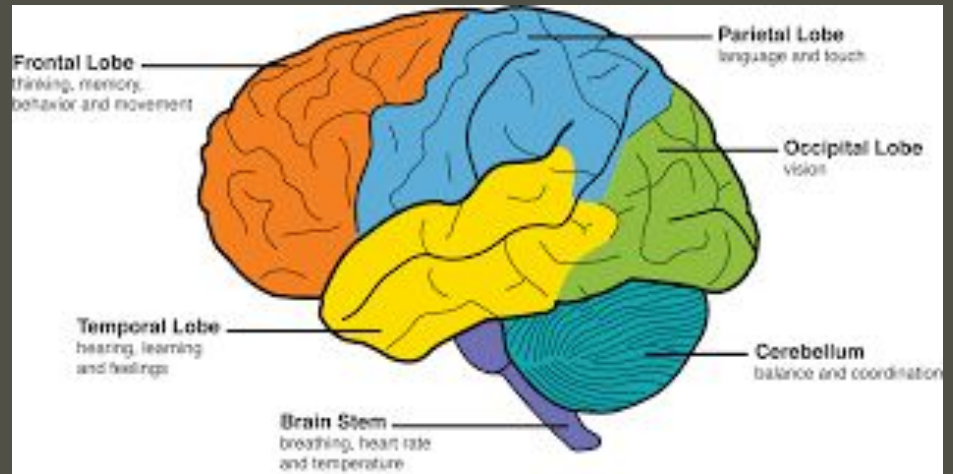
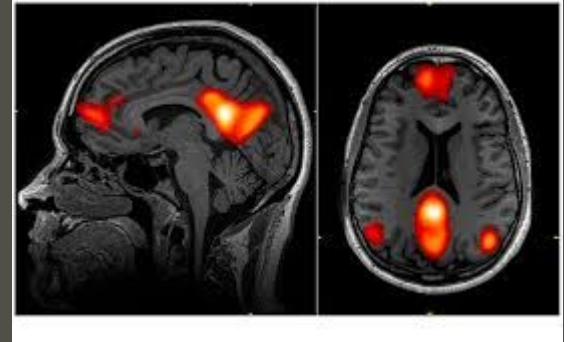
How do hormones and neurotransmitters influence our behaviour?

What does each area of the brain do?

How does the brain recovery after injury and what factors influence this?

How do we study the brain?

What happens if we cut the nerve fibers joining the two hemispheres.



### Split-Brain Patients

- "Split" = surgery in which the connection between the brain hemispheres is cut in order to end severe full-brain seizures
- Study of split-brain patients has yielded insights discussed at the end of the chapter



# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- **Research Methods** – how we study behaviour e.g. experiments, observations and case studies.

How do we gather data?

How do we analyse data?

What ethical guidelines should we follow when conducting research?

How do we decide whether a study is valid, or not?



# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

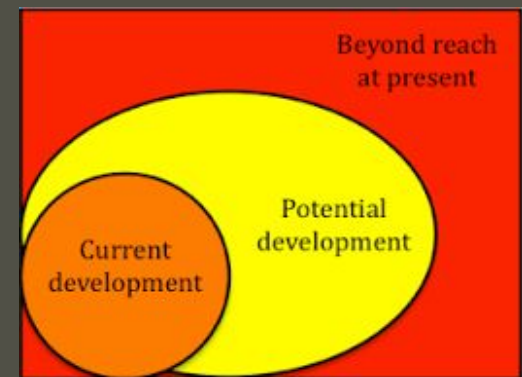
## Topics studied...

- Cognitive Development – how do children develop logic and knowledge about the world? When do they understand other peoples views/opinions? In this unit we look at autism.

What stages do children go through when developing cognition?

How can we help someone develop their knowledge and skills?

What are the explanations of autism?



# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- Schizophrenia – symptoms, causes and treatments.

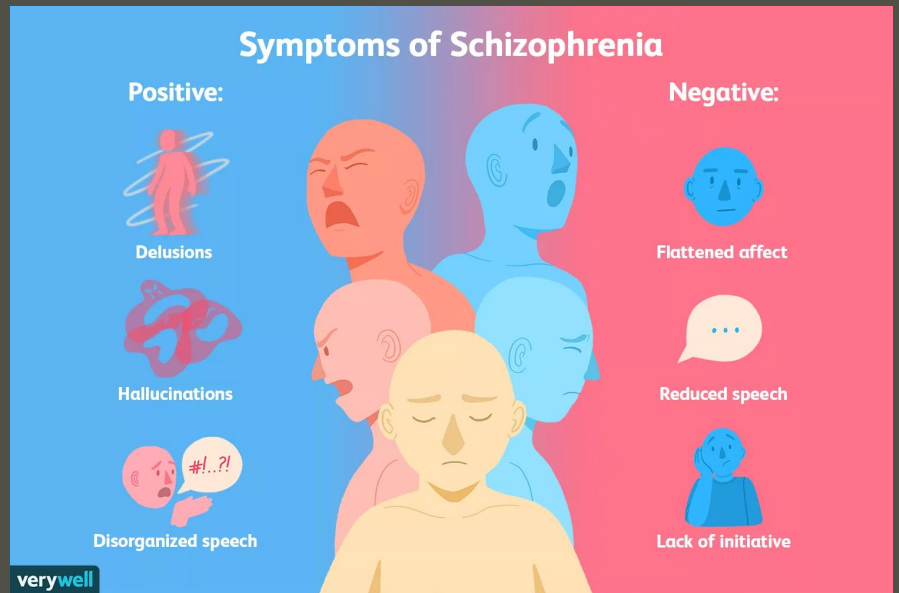
What is schizophrenia?

How do we diagnose schizophrenia?

What are the problems with the diagnostic systems?

What are the causes of schizophrenia?

How do we treat schizophrenia?





# PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

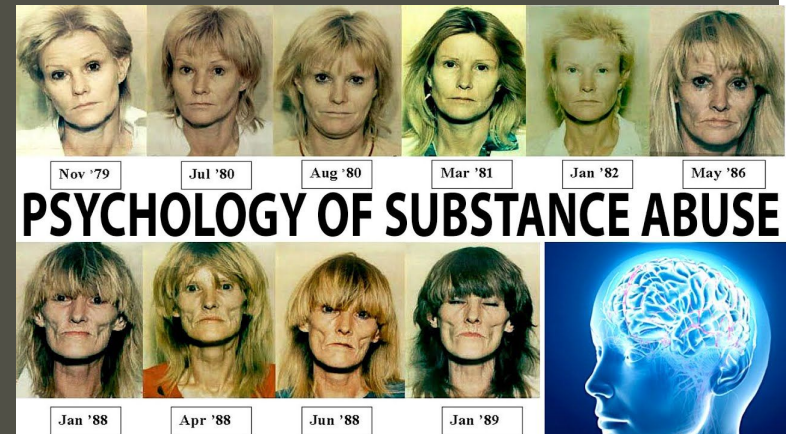
- Addiction – symptoms, causes and treatments.

How do we diagnose an addiction?

What are the risk factors of addiction?

What are the causes of addiction?

How do we treat addiction?



# A Level PSYCHOLOGY:

## Topics studied...

- Issues and debates in psychology – e.g. determinism (is all of our behaviour determined for us or do you decide your own behaviour?)

Think about the following;

Did you **really** decide the clothing you are wearing?

Did **you** make the decision to brush your teeth?



# How can I use it?



- You will learn skills that would be beneficial to a wide range of careers e.g ..
- Mental health nursing,
- Clinical psychologist,
- Education,
- Play therapist,
- The Police Force,
- The Health Service,
- Social Work,
- Sport,
- Business,
- Counsellor
- Legal system ...the list is endless!



# Why study psychology?

Fascinating

Complements other learning

Develops analytical skills

Useful for many areas in life

Understand yourself and other people

Employability and career prospects





# Further information

- Careers: <https://careers.bps.org.uk/>
- Course details:  
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>

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