

GETTING AHEAD



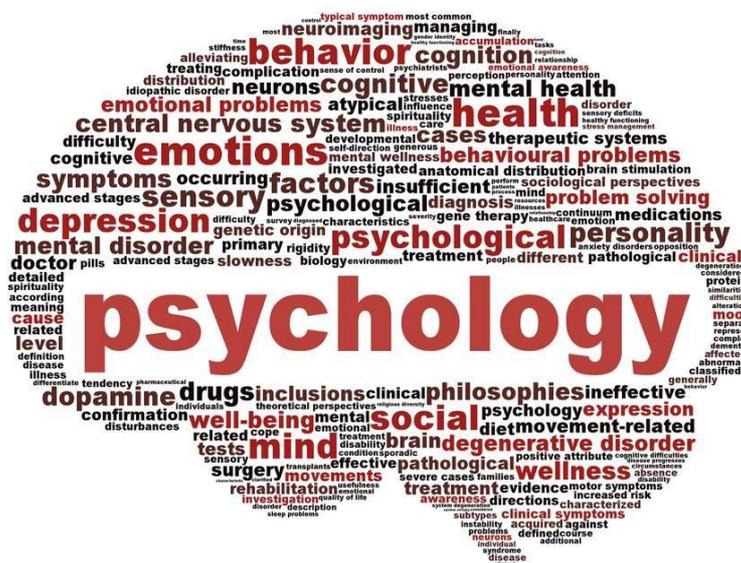
ALTON

Start to develop skills that are relevant to your course before you join HSDC this September!

Psychology – A Level

EXPLORING THE MIND OF A PSYCHOPATH

Welcome to A Level Psychology. Over the next two years you'll study a great variety of theories and research studies in the fascinating world of Psychology. You might not have noticed it but the beauty of Psychology is that it is present in all aspects of your life, from walking through the supermarket and buying clothes to sports matches, The X Factor, teaching your dog new tricks, Brexit, Donald Trump and worshipping your favourite celebrity. Of course, there are also more obvious areas in which Psychology plays a role, ranging from the treatment of psychological disorders such as depression to criminal profiling in the field of Forensic Psychology. You'll find out more about these topics in the upcoming two years of your Psychology course, so there is a lot to look forward to.



We look forward to seeing you in September!

For further information about your College and being a student at HSDC, please visit hsdc.ac.uk/Alton



For your 'getting ahead activity' we would like you to research the topic of 'psychopathy'. We are going to cover this topic in Year Two of your A Level course. You might have heard about 'psychopaths' when watching crime dramas such as 'CSI', 'Dexter' or 'Luther' but there is more to it than serial killers. In the upcoming weeks, we would like you to find out more about the reasons for psychopathy. In Psychology, like in any other science, you'll hardly ever find any definite explanation, which makes it even more fascinating. Please complete the tasks in the following sections. You'll be given some links to useful resources (e.g. TED talks, documentaries, articles). Please bring your answers to your first Psychology lesson after the summer break.

If you have any questions, please send an email to bianca.junge@alton.hsdac.ac.uk

We hope you'll enjoy your first Psychology task and we're looking forward to welcoming you in the Psychology Department in September.

Dr Bianca Junge (subject leader A Level Psychology)

Section A: Key terms

1. Research the internet to find out about the term '*Psychopath*'
2. Research the internet to find out about the term '*Sociopath*'
3. What is the difference between a 'Psychopath' and a 'Sociopath'?
4. Research the internet to find out about the term '*Narcissist*'

Section B: Explanations for psychopathy

1. In Psychology the terms 'nature' and 'nurture' are very often used to explain behaviour. Find out what these terms mean.
2. Research the internet for *genetic explanations* for psychopathy. Research the internet for *neural explanations* for psychopathy
3. Research the internet for *environmental explanations* for psychopathy
4. Which of the explanations above would you classify as 'nature' explanations and which ones as 'nurture' explanations. Give reasons for your answer.

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Section C: Famous Psychopaths / Sociopaths / Narcissists

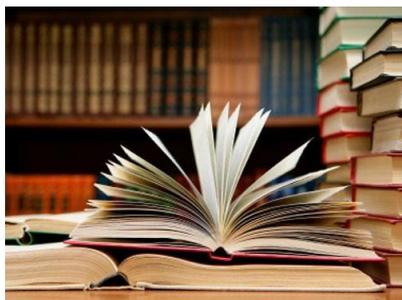
1. Research the internet and find information about a famous psychopath, sociopath or narcissist. You can choose a famous person or a character from a film / TV series / book. Create a profile of your chosen psychopath, sociopath or narcissist. Include information about childhood, family members, upbringing, personal life, past experiences etc.
2. Provide evidence why they would be classified as a psychopath, sociopath or narcissist (link back to their upbringing, other family members, past experiences, childhood, illnesses or any other factors that might have contributed to their psychopathic / sociopathic / narcissistic personality).

Section D: References

1. Provide a reference list with all resources you have used (newspaper articles, online articles, books, YouTube clips etc. in order to answer the questions in all sections.

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References

- Beck, Nathaniel; Jonathan N. Katz & Richard Tucker, 1998. 'Taking Time Seriously in Binary Time-Series-Cross-Section Analysis', *American Journal of Political Science* 42(1): 1260–1288.
- Benoit, K., 1996. 'Democracies Really Are More Pacific (in General)', *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 40(4): 636–657.
- Bremer, Stuart A., 1993. 'Democracy and Militarized Interstate Conflict, 1816–1965', *International Interactions* 18(3): 231–249.
- Chan, Steve, 1984. 'Mirror, Mirror on the Wall . . . Are Freer Countries More Pacific?', *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 28(4): 617–648.

Useful links:

1. Hare, R (2014): The Charming Psychopath. Are you dating a Psychopath? (article in Psychology Today)
2. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/199401/charming-psychopath>
3. Chivers, T. (2017): How to spot a Psychopath? (article in the Telegraph)
4. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/tv/2017/04/20/psychopaths-can-spot-one/>
5. Jim Fallon: Exploring the mind of a killer (TED talk)
6. https://www.ted.com/talks/jim_fallon_exploring_the_mind_of_a_killer
7. Neuroscience and the Psychopath Inside with James Fallon (TV interview)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MEQRgJbfU>
8. Thomas, M.E. (2013): How to Spot a Sociopath? (article in Psychology Today)
9. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/201305/how-spot-sociopath>
10. Meyers, S. (2013): Understanding the Sociopath: Cause, Motivation, Relationship (article in Psychology Today)
11. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/insight-is-2020/201304/understanding-the-sociopath-cause-motivation-relationship?collection=123968>
12. Narcissistic Personality Disorder (article in Psychology Today)
13. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/conditions/narcissistic-personality-disorder>
14. Stein, T. (2016): Narcissist or Sociopath? Similarities, Differences and Signs (article in Psychology Today)
15. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-integrationist/201608/narcissist-or-sociopath-similarities-differences-and-signs>

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