



Overview of Bridging Course

<i>Department:</i> Psychology	
<i>What is the focus of this bridging course?</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be introduced to the key approaches in psychology • Students will be introduced to the current issues and debates in psychology • Students will begin to apply these approaches, issues and debates to a key topic (psychopathology) 	
<i>w/b 27 April</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn about what the course entails, and the different aspects of A-level Psychology. • Students will consider what they already know about how humans and animals can be studied and the different ways of explaining behaviour, which they may have already have learnt about when studying subjects such as Biology GCSE, History GCSE, Health and Social Care GCSE or outside of the classroom. • Students will then begin to learn about the key approaches (biological, cognitive, behavioural, humanistic and psychodynamic) in more detail. Students will learn about key researchers in each field. They will understand that there are a range of ways in which psychologists can explain behaviour and various methods of treating/modifying abnormal behaviours. • Students will watch a series of webinars to introduce them to key psychologists which the examination board requires them to have in depth knowledge of, before completing reading on these individuals. Students will answer comprehension questions to assess their understanding of the work of these key psychologists. These answers will be submitted at the start of the course.
<i>w/b 4 May</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will focus on each approach in more detail and learn about the key assumptions, methods of testing, ways of explaining and treating behaviour each approach proposes • Students will learn about the positives and negatives of each approach, in terms of its practical applications as well as ethical implications. • Students will learn about how to apply each approach to scenarios which require them to explain and treat abnormal behaviours. • Students will then apply what they know directly to a series of multiple choice questions to check their understanding of the approaches. These answers will be submitted at the start of the course.
<i>w/b 11 May</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be introduced to the key issues and debates, which are ongoing in psychology, through a series of webinars and reading. • Students will consider which key researchers have overlooked the issues of gender and culture in their work and the implications of doing so. • Students will then analyse each approach to decide which side of each of the 4 debates (nature-nurture, free will-determinism, holism-reductionism, idiographic-nomothetic) each approach supports and the implications this has for individuals and society. • Students will complete an assessment, consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions, to check their understanding of the issues and debates. These answers will be submitted at the start of the course in September.
<i>w/b 18 May</i>	<p>Students will learn about what psychopathology as a topic is through a factsheet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will choose one of the disorders within this topic (OCD, depression or phobias) to write a short report entitled “Describing, explaining and treating (insert disorder)”. They will be directed to prepare for writing this report by watching some documentaries which explore these disorders and completing background reading. • Students will then write their report and then submit it in the first lesson at the start of the course.
<i>Work that will students will receive feedback on:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension questions and a report on treating disorder. 	