



Teacher notes

While psychology is a new subject for learners embarking on their GCSE course, they have covered a range of relevant knowledge and skills during their KS3 studies which can be usefully 'reactivated' to aid them in their psychological studies.

Since very few, if any, GCSE psychology teachers will have taught KS3 English, maths and science, it may help to inform your teaching if you explore the resources listed in this document.

We have also produced a learner checklist which can be used to 'audit' their prior learning, and you may wish to then direct them to work on some of the BBC Bitesize resources listed to strengthen their understanding of areas they are less confident with.

In particular, a considerable amount of the research methods content (which makes up at least 20% of the total marks available in the exams) and the mathematical skills assessed (half of the research methods marks, so at least 10% of the total) has been encountered by learners during their KS3 studies in maths and science.




Regarding English, while there are differences in the writing required for a GCSE psychology extended-response question and an English literature essay, there are also many skills in common, so reminding learners of the techniques they have already learned can be highly beneficial.

This resource features a learner self-assessment checklist, with numbered statements linked to BBC Bitesize resources for KS3 English, maths and science. Learners can indicate which of these areas they feel most and least confident with, then you can direct them to the Bitesize resources for the knowledge and skills that they could most benefit from 'topping up' using the numbered list of links on the following page. The final page shows how sections of the specification from Topic 11: Research Methods link to some of these resources.



GCSE Psychology Learner Transition Checklist

Psychology draws on knowledge and skills that you will have learned in your studies of many subjects, especially English, maths and science. How confident are you with the following?

			
1. I can write using paragraphs with topic sentences.			
2. I know how to structure an essay with several paragraphs.			
3. I can use evidence in my writing to back up my arguments.			
4. I can write a conclusion which sums up the answer to a question.			
5. I know about the different types of variable in an experiment.			
6. I can write a hypothesis for an investigation.			
7. I know how to write a scientific method and plan to avoid errors.			
8. I can rearrange scientific equations e.g. $\text{density} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}}$.			
9. I know about different types of data including categoric and continuous.			
10. I can draw graphs including line graphs and bar charts and know how to decide which one to use.			
11. I can explain a conclusion based on scientific evidence and evaluate it.			
12. I understand the problem of bias in scientific research.			
13. I can round numbers and use rounding to work out estimates.			
14. I understand decimals and fractions and can convert between them.			
15. I can calculate percentages and percentage change.			
16. I understand standard (index) form and can convert to and from it.			
17. I understand ratios and can solve problems involving them.			
18. I know what direct and inverse proportion are.			
19. I can calculate the mean, median, mode and range from a set of data.			



BBC Bitesize KS3 resources relevant to GCSE Psychology

KS3 English

1. [How to use paragraphs for KS3 English learners - BBC Bitesize](#)
2. [How to write an essay for KS3 English learners - BBC Bitesize](#)
3. [How to use evidence from a text - BBC Bitesize](#)
4. [How to write an essay conclusion - BBC Bitesize](#)

KS3 Science

5. [Variables - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)
6. [Writing a hypothesis and prediction - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)
7. [Planning an experiment - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)
8. [Maths skills for science - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)
9. [Different types of data - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)
10. [Graphs and charts - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)
11. [Conclude and evaluate - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)
12. [Bias in Science - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)

KS3 Maths

13. [Rounding and estimating - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)
14. [Decimals - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)
14. [Fractions - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)
15. [Percentages - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)
16. [Standard index form - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)
17. [Ratio - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)
18. [Direct and inverse proportion - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)
10. [Representing data - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)
19. [Averages - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)



GCSE Psychology Specification Points with related resources

11.1.1 Be able to identify: a. an independent variable (IV) b. a dependent variable (DV) c. extraneous variables, including (i) situational variables (ii) participant variables

[Variables - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)

11.1.3 Be able to write a null hypothesis

11.1.4 Be able to write an alternative hypothesis

[Writing a hypothesis and prediction - Working scientifically - KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize](#)

11.2.1 Arithmetic and numerical computation:

a. recognise and use expressions in decimal and standard form

[MiS Skills Worksheet - Decimals](#)

qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/mis-skills-video-decimals.mp4

[MiS Skills Worksheet - Standard Form](#)

qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/mis-skills-video-standardform.mp4

b. estimate results

c. use an appropriate number of significant figures

[Decimals - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Standard index form - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[MiS Skills Worksheet - Decimals and Significant Figures](#)

11.2.2 Be able to understand and use, including calculations:

a. mean, and finding arithmetic means

[MiS Skills Worksheet - Means and Averages](#)

qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/mis-skills-video-averages.mp4

b. median

c. mode

d. ratios

e. fractions

[MiS Skills Worksheet - Fractions](#)



f. percentages

[MiS Skills Worksheet - Percentages](#)

qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/mis-skills-video-percentages.mp4

g. range as a measure of dispersion

h. know the characteristics of normal distributions

[Averages - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[MiS Skills Worksheet - Means and Averages](#)

[Ratio - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Fractions - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Percentages - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[MiS Skills Worksheet - Percentages](#)

11.2.3 Be able to:

a. construct and interpret frequency tables and diagrams

b. construct and interpret bar charts

c. construct and interpret histograms

d. construct a scatter diagram

e. use a scatter diagram to identify a correlation between two variables

f. translate information between graphical and numerical forms

g. plot two variables from experimental or other data and interpret graphs

[Representing data - KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[MiS Skills Worksheet - Tables, Charts and Graphs](#)