



Oxford
Scholastica
ACADEMY



EXPERIENCE PSYCHOLOGY & NEUROSCIENCE ACADEMY



READING LIST

WELCOME

to the Oxford Scholastica

Experience Psychology & Neuroscience Academy!

We're all looking forward to meeting you and delving into the world of psychology and neuroscience together!

Preparing for your classes

Many of our students ask us how they can make the most out of their courses by doing some pre-course preparation, so we've given you some ideas here. Don't worry though – we don't expect you to do all this! We know how busy you are, and the preparation is optional. But if you'd like to make a head start, here are our suggestions...



Activities to do

Do some online research about one of the concepts outlined in the course overview e.g. personality, intelligence, creativity etc. Create a short presentation about this concept – what you know so far and what you're eager to find out more about.

Find and complete some online tests on different aspects of your individual psychology. Try to find a personality test, an intelligence test and a creativity test.

RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

If you would like to get to grips with some of the topics we will be covering during the Academy, the following links will be of interest.

- 1.** Discover what does and doesn't make us happy in this TED essay. You'd be surprised at what our brains tend to get wrong when creating our mood!

<https://www.ted.com/read/ted-studies/psychology/introductory-essay>

- 2.** Do schools really kill creativity? Discover more by watching here.

https://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_do_schools_kill_creativity

- 3.** There's a lot of personality tests available on the internet - but are they all accurate?

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/goodbye-to-mbti-the-fad-t_b_3947014

- 4.** Similarly, how reliable are IQ tests? Read this interesting take on intelligence tests.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/iq-tests-are-fundamentally-flawed-and-using-them-alone-to-measure-intelligence-is-a-fallacy-study-finds-8425911.html>

- 5.** What is memory and how do we process it? Read on to discover more.

<https://human-memory.net/memory-storage/>

- 6.** Find out more about perception in this article on stripes & their use in fashion.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8438770/>

- 7.** We'll explore how the language you speak might shape the way you think. You might be interested in watching this TED talk.

https://www.ted.com/talks/lera_boroditsky_how_language_shapes_the_way_we_think/transcript?language=en

- 8.** Watch this TED talk about neuroscience and how it can (and can't!) help us understand the brain.

https://www.ted.com/talks/molly_crockett_beware_neuro_bunk



RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

Here are some more ideas!

9. 'The Language Instinct' by Steven Pinker. This fascinating 'pop science' read argues that language is part of our genetic inheritance rather than a cultural creation. It will be of particular relevance to our class on Language and Thought.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Language-Instinct-Creates-Science-Penguin/dp/0140175296>

10. In 'Why Love Matters: How Affection Shapes a Baby's Brain' Sue Gerhardt explains why loving relationships are essential to our brain development in early years, and the impact these early interactions have on our future emotional and physical health. We will talk about related ideas in our class on Attachment.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Why-Love-Matters-Affection-Shapes/dp/1583918175>

11. MindHacks has interesting studies, explained in an approachable fashion, as well as weekly round-ups of recent work.

<https://mindhacks.com/>

12. Psychology of Attractiveness: both a website and fantastic podcast. This may be interesting for our 'Love' class, as well as introducing general principles about how psychological research is conducted.

<https://psychologyofattractivenesspodcast.blogspot.com/>

13. If you're interested in the benefits and limitations of neuroscience, you can learn more about this debate here.

https://www.ted.com/talks/nita_farahany_when_technology_can_read_minds_how_will_we_protect_our_privacy#t-769504

If you'd like any more resources, please feel free to ask us!

To explore a full course outline of what you will be studying, please see here.

<https://www.oxfordscholastica.com/oxford-summer-courses/psychology-summer-school/experience/#outline>

We hope you're as excited as we are to start the course and join us in Oxford!

