

WQE is one of the largest sixth form providers in England; a large twin-site college, centrally located in the city of Leicester. The College's most recent Ofsted inspection was in 2024 where we received a Grade 2 (Good) for Overall Effectiveness.

WQE aims to develop young professionals to be qualified to Level 3 and ready to progress to Level 4. We recognise that our students join us from a diverse range of backgrounds and are responsive to individual needs to support all students in a successful transition from school to Post-16 education.

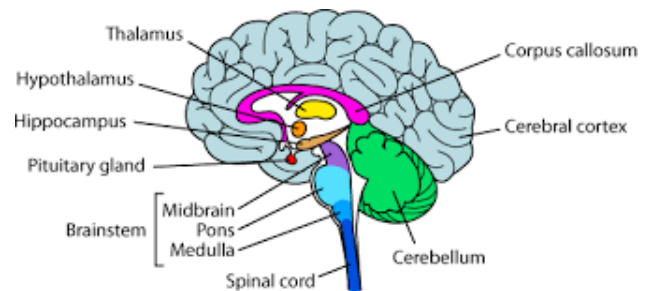
We actively encourage you start engaging with us at this early opportunity, to consider your subject choices and ensure you are in the best possible position to be prepared for making your Post-16 choices at the start of Year 11.

The task outlined below will give you an idea of what this Level 3 course involves. We welcome you to have a try and develop your understanding of the subject. You may wish to talk to Curriculum Staff about this during our Open Day in November or at other opportunities during the Admissions process.

One topic in Psychology you will be studying is **memory**.

In this topic you learn about how information is processed and where we store certain memories, for example, the best birthday present you have ever received is stored in the hippocampus and your knowledge of how to ride a bike will be stored in the cerebellum.

You will learn about why we forget and how our memory can be reconstructed, why we may remember an event differently to someone else, for example, if you witness a robbery, you may recall the robbers clothing as being black, but another witness says they were wearing a brown coat. This can be linked to what you pay attention to and why.



You will learn about eyewitness testimony and how our memory of an event can change by something as simple as a word.

Let's look at how good you are at some simple tasks! Watch the following 2 clips:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V= BNNMWYIOLM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNNMWYIOLM)

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=IGQMDOK_ZFY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGQMDOK_ZFY)



How is this linked to A level Psychology?

Selective attention refers to the processes that allows an individual to select and focus on particular information for further processing while at the same time ignoring irrelevant or distracting information.

Ask yourself...

- Did you see the cups change?
- Did you see the ducks?
- Did you see the gorilla?
- Did you see the colour of the curtain change?
- Did you see the player leave?

How can this be applied to real life?



SELECTIVE ATTENTION

Selective attention refers to the ability to intentionally focus awareness on specific aspects of a situation or information and block other stimuli.

EXAMPLE IN MAGIC

Magicians use selective attention to distract us during their tricks.

They take advantage of the fact that when you focus on their right hand, you will block out the subtle movements of their left hand.

This allows them to do things that appear magical, but are simply attention control tricks.

EXAMPLE AT PARTIES

One example of selective attention that we can all relate to is commonly referred to as the cocktail party effect.

This has to do with a person's ability to filter out the conversation happening around them and focus only on the conversation in which they are engaged.

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Link to what you will learn in A level Psychology.

How does selective attention influence eyewitness testimony?

When a witness's attention focuses on something other than the crime, they will experience memory problems. Crime blindness and other attention disruptions interfere with the ability of potential witnesses to notice a crime, remember details, and identify the culprit in a line up.

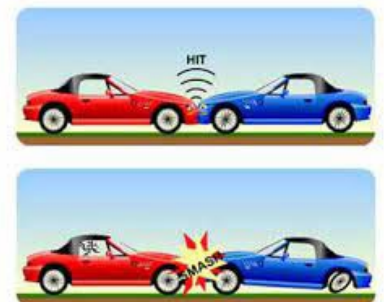
The use of **misleading information/leading questions** and **post event information** could impact on their memory due to this.

Loftus & Palmer created a study looking at the effect of leading questions.

Watch the clip below focusing on this study.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hha1bAtV5c>

This study shows us that by changing one verb in a question, a memory for an event can be recalled differently. Police officers need to be mindful of this when asking witnesses questions during an interview, as they want an accurate testimony.



The cognitive interview was later developed to try to prevent distortion of memories. You will learn about how this can be used with witnesses to improve recall in A level Psychology.

Final task!

Imagine you are a researcher wanting to look into the area of misleading information/leading questions.

Your prediction (hypothesis) is – Participants who are given misleading information will recall an event less accurately than participants who are not given misleading information.

Think about:

- What the misleading information will be?
- What event will you ask them to watch?
- Who will be your participants?
- How many participants will take part?
- How will you measure if they are accurate or not?



Can you plan how you would conduct the investigation in the planning box below.

Planning your investigation into the effect of misleading information on eyewitness testimony.

We hope you have enjoyed this little taste of Psychology.