

# Virtual Revision Conferences 2006 'In-house'

## AS/ A2 Psychology Programmes for AQA (A) and OCR candidates

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### Page

1	Index
2	AS Psychology for AQA (A) students- Course Code VR44
3	AS Psychology for OCR students- Course Code VR17
4	A2 Psychology for AQA (A) students- Course Code VR45

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Mike Cardwell



Dr Simon Green

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It's 'in-house'**

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# AS Psychology- For AQA (A) students

## Virtual Revision Conference (VR44)

with Dr Simon Green, Chief Examiner; Mike Cardwell, former Chief Examiner

### The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

#### Session 1: *The AO1 Skills*

Key issues: definitions, explanations, precis etc are covered with reference to Cognitive Psychology. Students will learn how to tackle a variety of different AO1 questions from the perspective of cognitive psychology, and will be given activities to consolidate these skills.

#### Session 2: *APFCC questions*

These are covered with reference to Developmental Psychology. This session covers the practical considerations in the APFCC questions and offers advice on how to answer these in the most effective way. One of the three developmental APFCC questions will be covered in detail, and students will be given the chance to construct answers to the remaining two studies in this section.

#### Session 3: *An examiner's perspective 1*

Key issues: reading the spec, question construction etc. are covered with reference to Physiological Psychology. What is the relationship between the specification and examination questions? What goes on inside a Principal Examiner's head when setting questions? This session covers the 'rules of the game', and offers students the experience of setting examination questions within a virtual 'Question paper evaluation committee' (QPEC).

#### Session 4: *An examiner's perspective 2*

Key issues: how marks are awarded, standards, marking exercise etc.) are covered with reference to Individual Differences. The other end of the examination experience involves the marking of papers. Students will be shown how marks are awarded and the different standards necessary for different mark bands within questions. As with the previous session, students will be take part in a virtual marking exercise so that they can experience first hand the required standards.

#### Session 5: *AO2 Skills*

Key issues: creative and effective commentary are covered with reference to Social Psychology. This session looks at how to structure answers to the part (c) questions, and how to produce creative and effective analysis and evaluation. Students will be given the chance to apply what they have learned to sample questions in social psychology from material provided in the notes accompanying the course.

#### Session 6: *Research Methods*

Key issues: Types of questions, thinking on your feet etc. are covered with reference to Research Methods. This session will cover the trickier components of the Research Methods section by focusing on a typical examination question and answer. Students will also get the chance to try their hand at a sample question, which will be 'marked' in the final segment of the session.

### The Course

Six sessions will cover all the essential skills necessary for effective examination performance. Each skill (e.g. AO1 skills, AO2 skills) will be embedded within a different section of the specification so that students receive topic based revision as well as generic transferable skills.

**Book - no obligation -  
by January 31 -  
10% discount**



Mike Cardwell



Dr Simon Green

**Mike Cardwell** has over 25 years experience of A level examining, 10 of which were spent as Chief Examiner for AS and A2 Psychology. Mike has authored and edited over 20 A level psychology textbooks, and is a regular contributor to psychology revision conferences. He is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Bath Spa University.

**Simon Green** is currently a senior lecturer in Psychology at Birkbeck College, University of London. For much of his professional life, over 20 years, he has been involved in the Psychology A level in a variety of examining roles, and is currently Chief Examiner for a major awarding body. He has also written A level books in the area of psychobiology and contributed chapters to several others. His particular interests, besides psychobiology, are in psychological disorders, and in preparing students for the examinations.

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# AS Psychology- For OCR students

## Virtual Revision Conference (VR17)

with Phil Banyard, former Chief Examiner

“Books are not always enough: they have all the information but not the drive to make you read them or that extra spark to bring the important bits off the page and into your mind. These sessions provide that extra focus for your studies”.

### The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

#### Session 1: Understanding Psychology

In order to understand psychology you have to have some idea about what it is trying to do. This session looks at the who, what, why and where of psychological research and puts the work in context.

#### Session 2: The Core Studies

Not all the core studies but just one. This session looks at how to read the study and make sense of it. What do you need to know and how should you write your notes?

#### Session 3: Evaluating Psychology

Knowing about the research is not enough. You have to be able to comment on it and point out the strengths and weaknesses. This session gives some tips in how to develop this difficult skill.

#### Session 4: Themes and Debates

The course is made up of 20 core studies and there are some key themes that join them together. Some of these themes are to do with the methods they use and some are to do with the moral and political issues that inform them.

#### Session 5: Questions and Answers

A revision programme wouldn't be a revision programme without a close look at some typical questions and the best way to answer them. That's precisely what we'll do in this session.

#### Session 6: Focusing on the key bits

Students sometimes do too much misdirected work. This session aims to cut through the nonsense and get to the basics of what you need to do. Less work and more marks.

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### Phil Banyard

Phil Banyard is at Nottingham Trent University. He was involved in writing and then examining for 15 years. He is a great teacher and has published a range of academic papers and texts.

### The Course

- learn the key skills for examination success
- learn to avoid pointless revision techniques
- understand the point of psychology

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## A2 Psychology- For AQA (A) students Virtual Revision Conference (VR45)

with Dr Simon Green, Chief Examiner; Mike Cardwell, former Chief Examiner

### The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

#### Session 1: *Effective essay writing.*

How to 'read' the specification, plan an effective revision strategy, précis lengthy material, plan and structure examination essays, handle the AO1 and AO2 components of questions and the dos and don'ts of essay writing are all covered here. The workshop component of this session will give students the opportunity to plan answers to two sample questions in an area of psychology they have previously studied and to apply the A2 marking criteria to a couple of sample answers.

#### Session 2: *Pro and anti-social behaviour.*

This session covers aspects of pro- and anti-social behaviour, with each segment covering one of the three divisions of this subsection (nature and causes of aggression, altruism and bystander behaviour, media influences on behaviour). Students are given the chance to practice the essay writing skills acquired in the previous session to construct a sample answer to a pro and anti social behaviour question.

#### Session 3: *Sleep and dreaming.*

This session offers a similar experience to the previous session, covering the key topics of the three divisions of another very popular Unit 4 subsection (biological rhythms, sleep and dreaming). This time, however, students are asked to construct revision plans (both systematic plans and spidergrams) to cover topics contained within this subsection.

#### Session 4: *Psychopathology.*

In this session, students are taken through biological and psychological explanations of schizophrenia, and shown how to integrate research evidence into discussion of schizophrenia and other forms of psychopathology. This session will also cover the possibilities of extra 'synoptic' content in these areas, and students will be given the opportunity to weave synoptic material into an examination answer on schizophrenia.

#### Session 5: *Issues.*

Although some centres prefer the 'debates' option of this subsection, the overwhelming favourite appears to be 'issues'. This session covers each of the four issues (gender bias, cultural bias, ethical issues and the use of animals), and demonstrates where the psychological content necessary to answer these questions can be found in the specification. Students are given the opportunity to plan effective answers to questions in each of these four issues.

#### Session 6: *Approaches.*

This final session covers two psychological approaches that can be applied to most scenarios in the Unit 5 Approaches section (behaviourism and evolutionary psychology). Students learn the central concepts and methods of these two approaches and how to apply them effectively in response to examination questions. Students are given the opportunity to apply these concepts to a sample examination question, and to construct methodological investigations using explanations drawn from behaviourism and evolutionary psychology.

### The Course

Six sessions will cover all the essential skills necessary for effective examination performance. Each session will build upon the skills acquired in the previous session, so that at the end of the DVD, students will have a good all round understanding of examination techniques, and will have had the opportunity to apply these within a variety of different topic areas. Some of the sessions will focus explicitly on popular subsections of the specification, so that students are taught important *material* as well as techniques.

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