



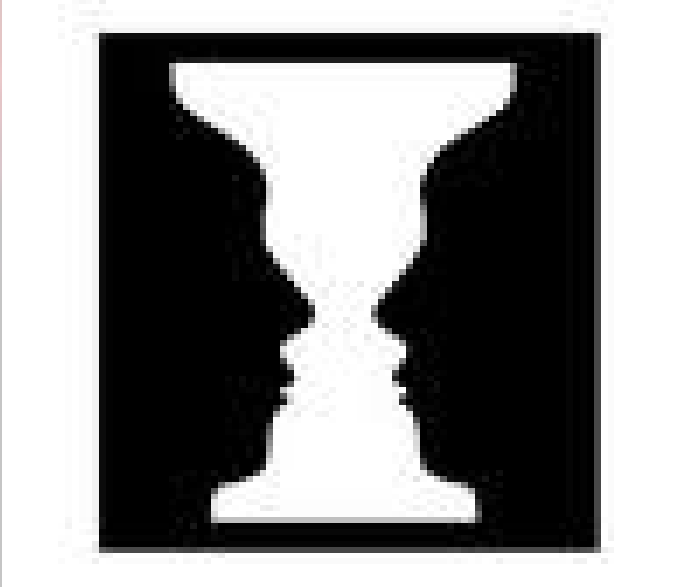
Welcome to A Level Psychology

Y12 Induction 2018



Optical Illusions

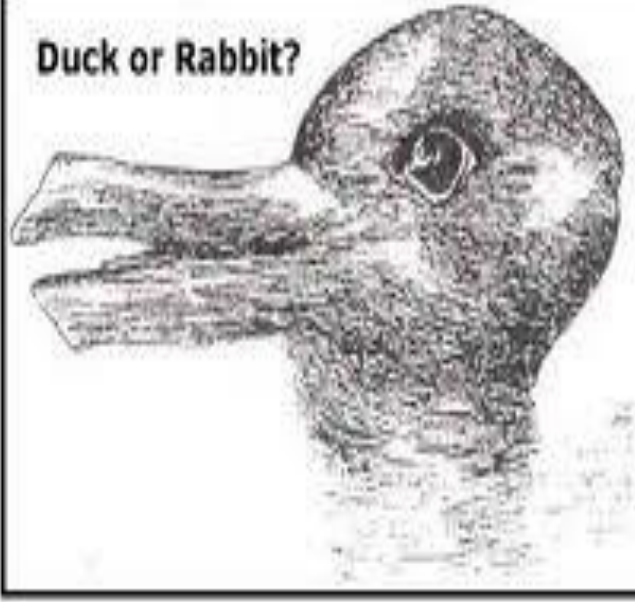
What can you see?







Duck or Rabbit?



OPTICAL ILLUSIONS



Gestalt Psychology

- School of psychology founded in the 20th century that provided the foundation for the modern study of **perception**.
- Gestalt theory emphasizes that **the whole of anything is greater than its parts**.
- That is, the attributes of the whole are not deducible from analysis of the parts in isolation.
- May refer to **holism**: the idea that natural systems and their properties should be viewed as wholes, not as collections of parts.
- The word *Gestalt* is used in modern German to mean the way a thing has been “placed,” or “put together.”

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of human mind and behaviour: how we think, feel, act and interact individually and in groups.

It is NOT about reading people's minds!

Psychologists aim to understand why people think or behave in particular ways in certain situations

Psychology is a science and psychologists study human behaviour by observing, measuring and testing, then arriving at conclusions that are rooted in sound scientific methodology

What skills will I acquire through studying Psychology?

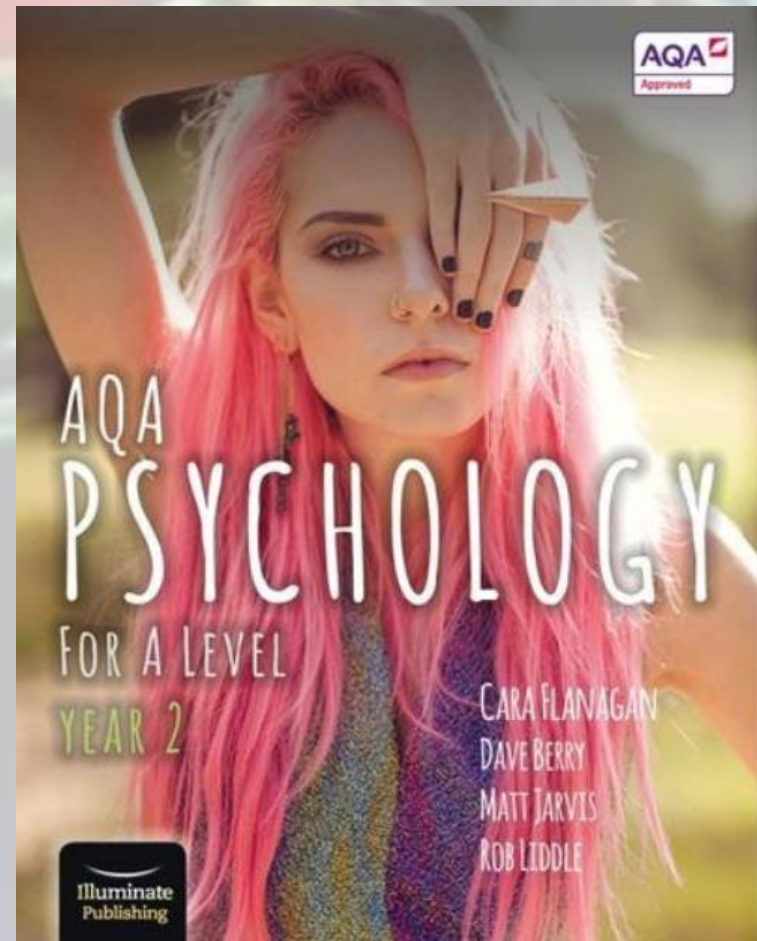
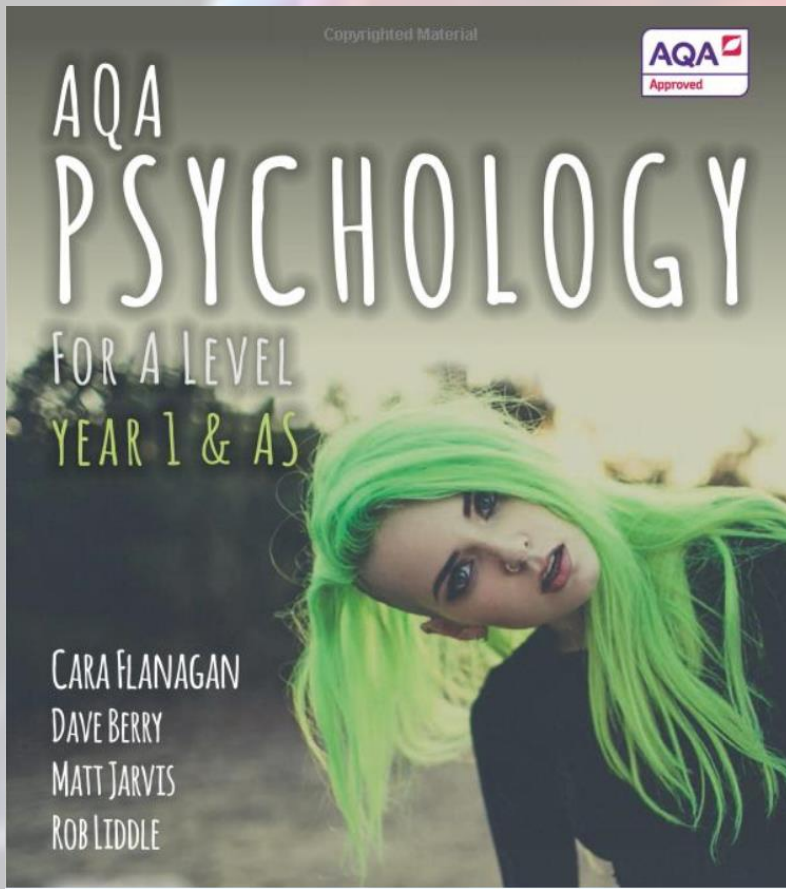
Psychology is a science. It provides students with many skills and abilities that are important to both universities and employers. These include:

- Critical thinking skills
- Ability to analyse and discuss ideas from different perspectives and present these ideas both orally and in written form
- Practical thinking – the ability to plan and think through situations

What is involved in the A Level Psychology course?

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Compulsory content</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social influence 2. Memory 3. Attachment 4. Approaches in Psychology 5. Psychopathology 6. Biopsychology 7. Research methods 8. Issues and debates in Psychology 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Options</u></p>		
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>One of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Relationships 10. Gender 11. Cognition & development 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>One of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Schizophrenia 13. Eating behaviour 14. Stress 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Option 3</u></p> <p>One of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Aggression 16. Forensic psychology 17. Addiction
<p>Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology</p>	<p>Paper 2: Psychology in Context</p>	<p>Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology</p>	
<p><u>What's assessed:</u> Compulsory content 1–4 above</p> <p><u>Written exam:</u> 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level</p> <p><u>Questions:</u> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p> <p>Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p> <p>Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p> <p>Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p>	<p><u>What's assessed:</u> Compulsory content 5–7 above</p> <p><u>Written exam:</u> 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level</p> <p><u>Questions:</u> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p> <p>Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p> <p>Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 48 marks</p>	<p><u>What's assessed:</u> Compulsory content 8 above Optional content, one from option 1, 9–11, one from option 2, 12–14, one from option 3, 15–17 above</p> <p><u>Written exam:</u> 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level</p> <p><u>Questions:</u> Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p> <p>Section B: one topic from option 1, 9–11 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p> <p>Section C: one topic from option 2, 12–14 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p> <p>Section D: one topic from option 3, 15–17 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p>	

What textbook will I need?



What will I learn?

A Level Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social influence
 - This includes explanations of obedience and conformity, as well as minority influence and the effect of social pressure on social change
- Memory
 - This includes models of memory, explanations of forgetting, and factors affecting eyewitness testimony
- Attachment
 - This includes caregiver-infant interactions, animal studies of attachment, the early influence of attachment on childhood and adult relationships
- Psychopathology
 - This includes the cognitive, behavioural and emotional characteristics and phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD); different approaches to explaining and treating phobias, depression and OCD

What will I learn?

A Level Paper 2: Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology
 - This includes the origins of Psychology, learning approaches, cognitive approaches, and the biological approach. You will also compare approaches in Psychology.
- Biopsychology
 - This includes neurons, fight-or-flight response, localisation of function, plasticity and functional recovery of the brain following trauma, ways of investigating the brain, and sleep.
- Research methods
 - This includes data handling and analysis and understanding and evaluating different research methods in Psychology (such as experiments, observations, questionnaires, and case studies). You will also need to know the implications of psychological research for the economy.
 - **Research methods is applied throughout the course and is extremely important**

What will I learn?

A Level Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

- Issues and debates
 - This includes the nature-nurture debate, free will vs determinism, reductionism vs holism, gender bias and culture bias in psychological research, and ethics
- Cognition and development
 - This includes Piaget and Vygotsky's theories of cognitive development, Baillargeon's explanations of early infant abilities, development of social cognition, including theory of mind as an explanation for autism.
- Schizophrenia
 - This includes how schizophrenia is diagnosed, biological explanations, psychological explanations, biological and psychological treatments for schizophrenia.
- Forensic psychology
 - This includes offender profiling, biological and psychological explanations of offending behaviour, and was of dealing with offending behaviour



Introduction to Psychology

Ethical issues and dealing with ethical
issues in psychological research

Ethical Issues in Psychological Research

Before any psychological research can be carried out, an application to an Ethics Committee must be submitted; the application must then be approved by the Ethics Committee

The key issues that must be considered are:

- Is there an opportunity for the participant to give **informed consent**?
 - Will the participants be **deceived** in any way?
 - Will the participants be able to **withdraw** from the study?
- Will the participants be **protected from harm**; both psychological and physical?
 - Will participants' details be kept **private** and **confidential**?

Discuss:

What are the ethical issues in this experiment?



Ryback (1969) investigated the effect of alcohol on learning in goldfish. The goldfish were presented with a Y-shaped maze and rewarded for swimming into one specific arm of the maze (this was pre-chosen by the experimenters). After the goldfish had been trained in the maze, half of them were placed in a solution of alcohol (water + alcohol) and the other half placed in ordinary water. When the goldfish were tested on the Y-shaped maze a week later, those who were exposed to alcohol performed worse on the task than those who had not been exposed to alcohol.

Discuss:

What are the ethical issues in this experiment?



Ryback (1969) investigated the effect of alcohol on learning in goldfish. The goldfish were presented with a Y-shaped maze and rewarded for swimming into one specific arm of the maze (this was pre-chosen by the experimenters). After the goldfish had been trained in the maze, half of them were placed in a solution of alcohol (water + alcohol) and the other half placed in ordinary water. When the goldfish were tested on the Y-shaped maze a week later, those who were exposed to alcohol performed worse on the task than those who had not been exposed to alcohol.

Dealing with Ethical Issues

What if informed consent is not possible; e.g. because it will give away the aim of the study?

- You could gain agreement to participate in an experiment from a similar group of people to those you would like to test and ask them if they would object to the procedure. This is called **presumptive consent**. Alternatively, you could ask for **prior general consent**.

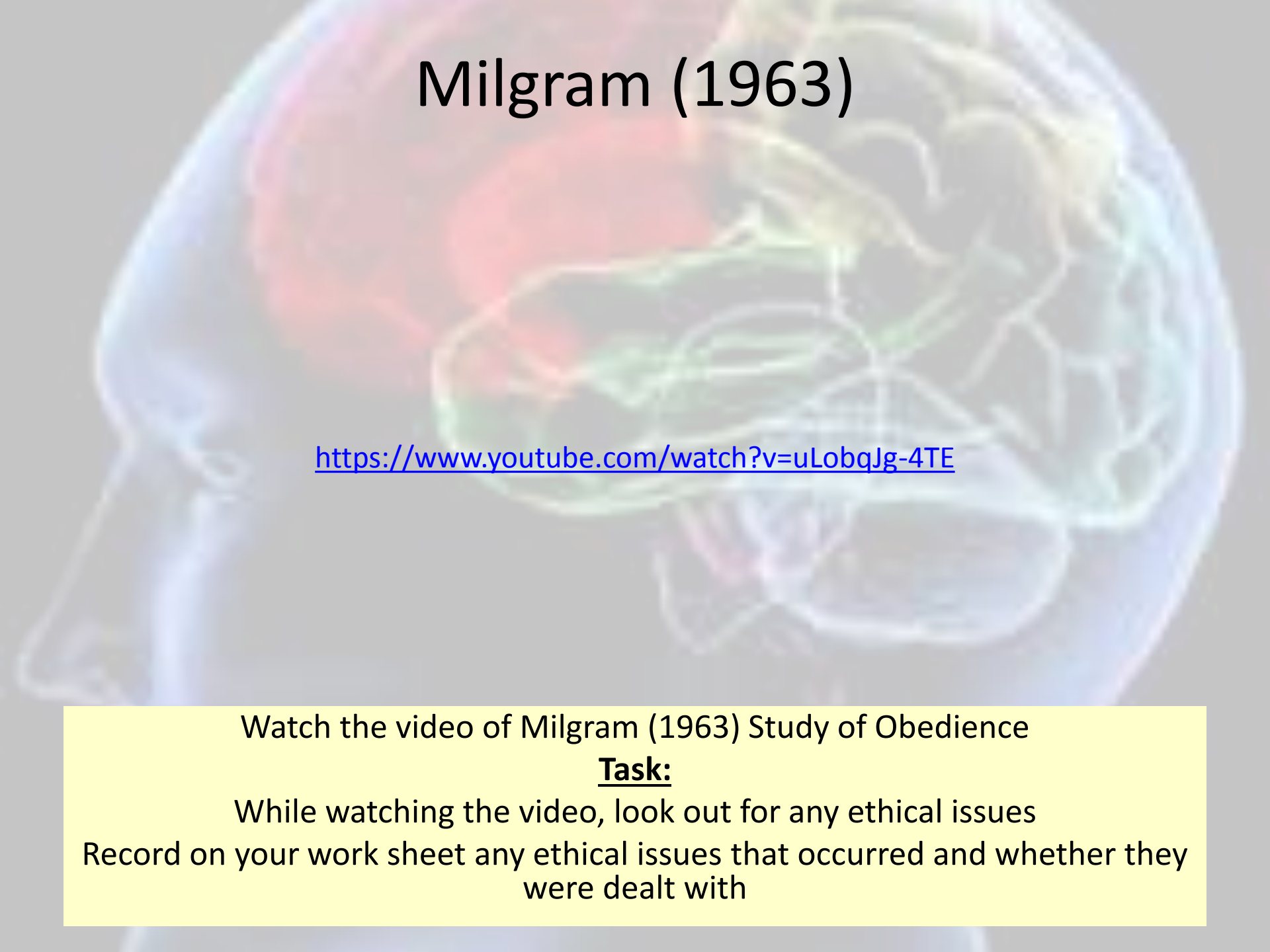
Why is a debrief important?

- It gives the experimenter the opportunity to explain the aim of the study and to ensure that they have not been harmed as a result of their participation. You can also remind them of their right to withdraw.
- A debrief should **NOT** be used as an excuse to deceive participants.

What if someone has been harmed?

- During the debrief you should refer them to counselling or offer some other support; post-study support or counselling should be planned for prior to the study if there is even the smallest risk that participants may be harmed.

Milgram (1963)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLobqJg-4TE>

Watch the video of Milgram (1963) Study of Obedience

Task:

While watching the video, look out for any ethical issues

Record on your work sheet any ethical issues that occurred and whether they were dealt with



Discussion

Is Milgram (1963) Behavioural Study of Obedience ethical?

5 minutes

Discussion

Is Milgram (1963) Behavioural Study of Obedience ethical?

5 minutes

Homework

Read the article 'The shock of the old' p.650-652 (The Psychologist; September 2011, Vol 24 (9))

AND

Write an answer for the following question:

Is Milgram's (1963) Behavioural Study of Obedience ethical?

Your answer should contain 2 paragraphs:

1. The first paragraph should explain and give reasons why it IS ethical
2. The second paragraph should give reasons and explain why it IS NOT ethical

If you'd like to watch the clip again to refresh your memory and/or extend your knowledge, the link is:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnBY0FCqJU0&safe=active>

Optional Summer Reading

**Critical Thinking for Students:
Learn the Skills of Critical
Assessment and Effective
Argument – 3rd Edition by Roy
van den Brink –Budgen**

Amazon prices – New: £7.19
Used: from £0.01

