

SE u3a Forum Summer School

Monday 7th – Thursday 10th September 2026

University of Chichester



Subject – Memory, Perception & Thinking

Maximum 12

“How these normally work well but can go wrong”

The focus will be on introducing some of the key areas of cognitive psychology. We will look at fascinating topics such as human memory, perception and problem solving; both how these processes function normally and how they can go wrong. We will also look briefly at how children develop these abilities and at some real-life issues such as eyewitness testimony and the effects of brain damage. This is an **introductory course**, and no previous knowledge is assumed. The sessions will involve talks, demonstrations, discussions and group work.



About the tutor

Alan is a recently retired Open University tutor. He has over 25 years' experience teaching both developmental and cognitive psychology. He has an MPhil in developmental psychology and a PhD in human memory from Cambridge University and lots of summer school teaching experience with the Open University. He runs u3a courses in psychology at Cambridge and Sawston u3as and recently gave a session at the u3a Festival24 in York. He worked for many years as a consultant in Organisational Psychology, advising organisations (e.g. Barclaycard, Scotland Yard, local government) on human factors issues.

Monday Day 1 – 4:40 - 5:30 ~ Introducing ourselves ~ What is Psychology? ~ Overview of course	Summer School Course - 2026
Tuesday Day 2 – 9:30 – 11:00 ~ Nature and nurture ~ How we learn? Example – gender 11:30 – 1:00 ~ Taking in information - perception ~ Attention and The Grand Illusion	
Wednesday Day 3 9:30 – 11:00 ~ Types of memory ~ Long-term memory ~ Schemas 11:30 – 1:00 ~ Autobiographical memory ~ Working memory	Tuesday Day 2 2:15 – 3:15 ~ Recognising objects and people 3:45 – 4:45 ~ Concepts – the building blocks of memory
Thursday Day 4 9:30 – 11:00 ~ Problem solving ~ Decision making ~ Reasoning 11:30 – 1:00 ~ What we have learned?	For further information about the course, please contact the tutor