



the quarterly gazette



May Edition

Eurovision, the Met Gala, and the world outside our window

Anyone keeping up with the latest in the entertainment world will know that recently both the Met Gala and Eurovision took place within a week of each other, on the 6th and the 11th of May respectively. While both events are known for their flamboyance and splendour, showcasing talent and celebrity, this year in particular has sparked intense controversy online, in the media and protests worldwide. The common theme? Oblivion of the outside world.

The Met Problem

The controversy surrounding this year's Met may have already reached many of our phones. This year's theme was based on the short story, "The Garden of Time", which ironically is about an aristocratic couple waiting in their luxurious mansion while an army of peasants advances over the hill. Some writers interpret the story as a tale about how wealth and material possessions cannot stop the death-march of time, however the event's flashy display of wealth tasted nothing but bitter to spectators struggling under failing economies and cost of living crises. Multiple celebrities have been placed on the "digital guillotine", namely Camila Cabello (of Havana), earning fury from users online due to her accessory of choice, a block of ice with a copper rose in it. If you were to take a guess how much this would be worth, I doubt anyone would land on the actual price of a whopping \$22,500.



One internet user pointed out that the price of the accessory alone (which had nearly melted by the time Camila had entered the event) was more than she made in a entire year. Each video criticising Camila has gained tens and hundreds of thousands of views, as well as of another celebrity in attendance

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An influencer and model by the name of Haley Kalil faced immense backlash after posting a seemingly innocent video on TikTok with a sound from Sophia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette* in which the titular character proclaims; "Let them eat cake!". At first thought, some people wouldn't even blink at the choice of audio. However, some users pointed out how the quote is from a Queen during the French revolution -who was nicknamed Madame Deficit due to how her lavish spending habit was a strain on the French economy- dismissing her starving people's pleas. People said this was tone deaf, as she posted the video in a designer dress, being paid to produce Met Gala content while Palestinian activists were protesting down the road, and at the very same time, 2.3 million people were starving and facing numerous attacks in Gaza. She has since apologised for the unfortunate choice, as she thought the sound suited her Marie Antoinette inspired dress, and nothing more.



Whether you believe these controversies are just sensationalised by news outlets or there is truly a mental divide between the uber-rich and the everyday person growing more and more every day, there is no doubt that this years Met Gala has sparked a huge debate about celebrity culture and the state of world affairs

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The Eurovision controversy

In the same vein as before, the Palestine and Israel conflict cast a shadow over the competition. It's no secret that politics plays a huge role in the contest, as whether its a conflict, longstanding feuds between countries or all-out war, Europe and other competing countries are never at peace. In 2022, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russia was barred from competing, and Ukraine won with a landslide victory from the public votes. However, the conflict between Israel and Arab states has cast a shadow on the contest since Israel's first appearance in 1973. Many countries in the middle east have refused to broadcast Israel's performance and boycotted the contest when it was hosted in Tel Aviv in 2019.

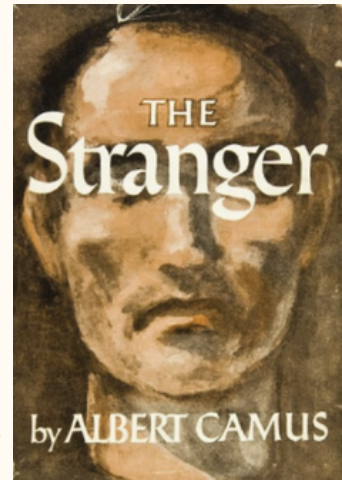


This year however, the controversy stemmed from the disqualification of The Netherlands' Joost Klein. Before the final, he was a frontrunner but was not invited back after he pushed a camera away from him and supposedly broke it. However more information came out after the competition ended and it was revealed that after an emotional ending to his song dedicated to his late parents, he had cried and a member of the Israeli delegation started filming him. The disqualification was met with uproar and the Israeli entry, Hurricane was met with loud boos during the performance, so much that most of the crowd recording that to be scrapped. Many loyal Eurovision fans are disappointed that the Dutch song, about unity throughout Europe was disqualified and that Israel, a country currently committing a genocide and with a delegation allegedly harassing other performers was allowed to compete.

-Maddie O'Connor

LITERARY REVIEW

Absurdism in literature: The Stranger by Albert Camus



Absurdism is a philosophical thesis which believes life, or the world in general, to be absurd, where, as nothing exists that could be a source of meaning, all human strife to find meaning is absurd, and ultimately doomed. Despite this, absurdism suggests that one should accept the absurdity of life, and still rebel against it by embracing what life has to offer.

Albert Camus, the French writer and absurdist philosopher, explores this notion with his central character, Meursault who rejects both religious and secular attempts to find meaning.

“Really, there’s no idea to which one doesn’t get acclimatized with in time.”

Throughout the novel, Meursault seems to waver between nihilist, meaning that life has no meaning and is essentially pointless, and absurdist beliefs. This conflict between the meaningless of life and the search for meaning is epitomised as Meursault is sentenced to be guillotined.

The impending end to his life brings a kind of enlightenment for Meursault, as he embraces indifference as an active choice, opening himself to the indifference to the world itself, ultimately choosing an absurdist outlook, rejecting nihilism.

“I laid my heart open to the gentle indifference of the universe.”

“Mother died today. Or, maybe, yesterday; I can’t be sure.”

Instead, he believes only in this life and physical experience. His refusal to believe in the social constructs that define and give life as we know it meaning, such as marriage and the legal system, position him as a ‘Stranger’ to society. During Meursault’s trial for murder, his apparent indifference to his mother’s death provokes horror and hatred in the people of the jury more so than the act of killing another man.

“Its common knowledge that life isn’t worth living, anyhow.”

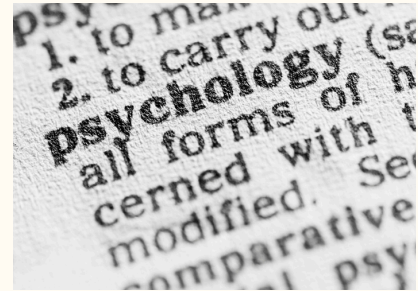
Even though the seemingly far-fetched nature of the novel can make it difficult to translate these grand ideas about life to our everyday, the idea of embracing everything life has to offer, instead of searching deep for intrinsic meaning, undoubtedly can add spontaneity and creativity to our lives.

-Sadie Wilson

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT:

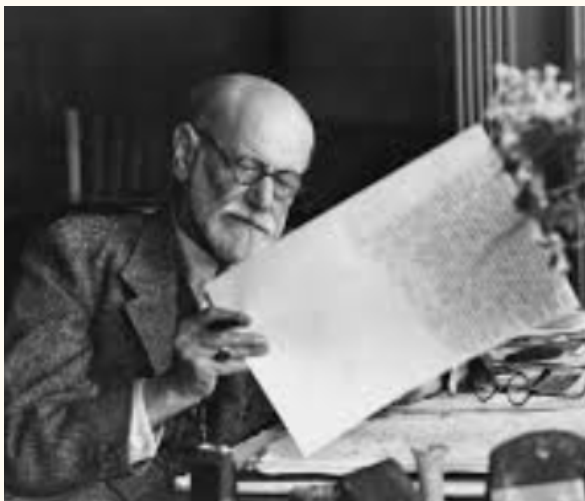
An introduction to Psychology

If you're considering studying psychology for A-level, or just curious to learn a little bit more about what it is about, this article provides an insight and introduction to the study of psychology, perfect for sparking your interest, or giving you an idea of what the subject entails.



Psychology is the study of both mind and behaviour, conscious and subconscious. This includes a vast range of ideas, such as Freud's Oedipus complex and psychosexual stages of development, to ideas including aspects of social influence, like conformity and obedience.

In year 1, topics include: approaches; research methods; social influence and memory. This includes the controversial ideas of Freud in the psychodynamic approach, alongside the famous Pavlov and his experiment with dogs and classical conditioning.



The topic of research methods is an useful one which shows you how to do your own investigations into people and the pros and cons of each method. For example, Social influence includes topics such as conformity and obedience, which come with shocking experiments and statistics. Finally, memory explores short term and long term memory and how we learn and remember things.

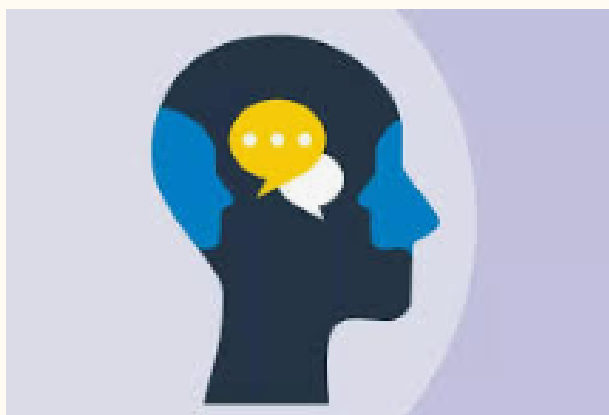
SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT:

An introduction to Psychology

In year 2, topics include: issues and debates; biopsychology; and relationships and schizophrenia. Issues and debates covers arguments relating to conducting research and explaining behaviour such as free will and determinism and the nature vs nurture debate. Also, biopsychology expands on the biological approach earlier looked at in the approaches topic to explore the science behind the mind and the different systems in the body such as the endocrine and nervous systems.



The topic, relationships, includes a deep dive into the psychology underlying romantic relationships, more specifically, the evolutionary aspects of relationships and factors affecting attraction. Finally, you will study schizophrenia which explains the diagnosis and classification of the illness; biological and psychological explanations alongside biological and psychological treatments for schizophrenia.



I personally enjoy psychology as it opens up class discussions and makes you question things that you think you know about yourself and others. Also, it is an interesting subject as it is directly applicable to your own experience of life. For example, memory is helpful when thinking about revision and school work, whilst social influence is more applicable to society as a whole: how it influences us and we influence it, which is seen in the examples of Donald Trump and other corrupt leader- it gives explanations for their rise in power within society.

-Zara Travers

THE LATEST IN CREATIVE ARTS

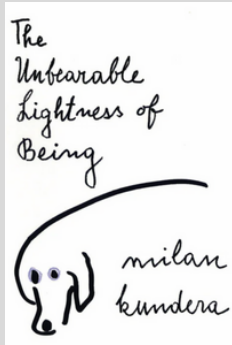
Gold Arts Award Trip

A large part of the foundation of Gordon's is giving back to both local and wider society, this has been shown time and time again through the efforts of the charity prefects and fundraisers such as the Colour Run. Despite this, art is often brushed over in the conversation of charity, so the Common Ground Collective period 7 decided to take action. Earlier this year, the seniors from the Common Ground Collective took a trip to the Frimhurst Family House in Frimley to host a pottery workshop. The Frimhurst Family Home is a refuge for vulnerable families from poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion. The workshop was centred around a Japanese technique called 'Kurinuki' which translates to 'hollow out'. Using this method, people created hollowed-out clay houses, suitable for use as plant pots, pots, or simply decoration. I helped photograph this event for my 'Gold Arts Award' and assisted those who needed help. This workshop provided a release for both those participating and those helping out, and being able to communicate with people who may not even speak the same language as you through creative mediums such as art, only made this experience more special. The takeaway from this piece should be that we can all (no matter how big or small the gesture) do a part to help support the communities that do the same for us.



Recent Recommendations

**B
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The Unbearable Lightness of Being by Milan Kundera
Acclaimed Czech author Kundera weaves an intriguing story, encouraging the reader to interrogate the nature of love, eroticism and the dynamic between men and women. His novel encompasses the extremes of both tragedy and comedy, and illuminates all aspects of human existence, as Kundera explores and challenges our understanding of existence and the search for meaning.

**M
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USB by Fred again...
The latest album from the biggest artist in dance music right now is full of his iconic sound, and brings in elements of tech house and garage to produce amazing tracks like "Turn on the lights again..." which features progressive house icons 'Swedish House Mafia.' An exciting and thoroughly entertaining album.

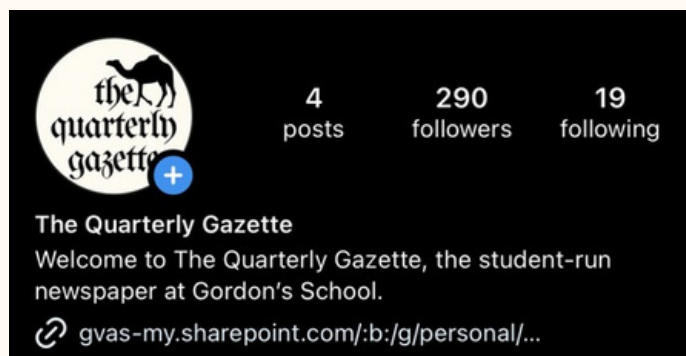
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Boondock Saints
This classic has gained a cult following since it's release in 1999. The film follows two Irish twins in Boston, who after a bar fight with members of the Russian mafia receive a vision from god telling them they must rid the city of criminals. they become vigilantes, but slowly find themselves drawn into a web of crime and murder, while being pursued by an obsessive FBI agent.

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4 posts 290 followers 19 following

The Quarterly Gazette
Welcome to The Quarterly Gazette, the student-run newspaper at Gordon's School.
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SPORTS HERE AT GORDONS SCHOOL:

Last dance for U18s netballers!



After an incredibly successful few years, where the girls have built as a squad to put out some incredible performances and cultivate a fantastic squad community in which everyone thrives! We wish all those who had their last game for Gordon's the best of luck in the future, and know they will undoubtedly go on to do amazing things, in netball and otherwise! Everything the girls have achieved will rightly be celebrated in style at the Sports Dinner at the end of term.

Interhouse cycling



Interhouse cycling was a hit! Despite the less than ideal weather, the enthusiastic cyclists not only performed fantastically, but were incredible at supporting each other. The format of relay really created a team camaraderie within each house, and it was amazing to see how a usually individual sport transformed into such a team event. Congratulations to Victoria House and "" for winning the event!

Interhouse athletics

Interhouse athletics is well under way, with pre-sports day events taking place over the last few weeks. Houses are racking up points to put themselves in the best position for Sports Day this Friday!

