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This series of titles is aimed at A-level psychology students in sixth forms, further education colleges and on degree courses and those wishing to obtain an overview of psychology. The books are easy to use, with comprehensive notes written in coherent language; clear flagging of key concepts; relevant and interesting illustrations; well-defined objectives and further reading sections to each chapter; and self-assessment questions at regular intervals throughout the text.

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PERSPECTIVES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Second Edition

**Alison Wadeley
Ann Birch
Tony Malim**

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*To my mother and late father
with love and admiration*

A.W.

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Preface to the Second Edition

This book aims to provide those engaged in the study of psychology with an overview of psychological science. It begins with an account of the historical background of psychology, looking at different strands within its development from being a branch of philosophy to its emergence as a science. Chapter 2 examines different theoretical approaches which have developed and which currently influence psychological theory and practice.

Chapter 3 presents a discussion of major issues and debates in psychology, such as the heredity/environment debate, reductionism and free will and determinism. Chapter 4 examines controversies in psychological research, including the use of the scientific method and biases in psychological research. Ethical issues in psychology are explored in Chapter 5, and Chapter 6 examines some controversial applications of psychological research, for example advertising, propaganda and warfare. Finally, Chapter 7 looks at vocational fields open to psychologists.

The authors have attempted to present this overview simply and concisely in the form of comprehensive notes. There is, of course, a thin dividing line between clarity and succinctness on the one hand and oversimplification and distortion on the other. Every effort has been made to avoid the latter. Psychology is a rich and varied discipline containing many complex ideas. Some of these cannot be adequately expressed briefly; therefore at the end of each chapter there are suggestions for appropriate further reading.

For the independent student each chapter begins with objectives to be met during the study of the chapter and each section within chapters ends with self-assessment questions, so that the reader may test his/her understanding of the section. The reader is advised to work through the text a section at a time and to consider the self-assessment questions as they present themselves and again after further reading has been undertaken.

The authors believe that this book will meet a long-felt need and that readers will find it both enjoyable and useful in relation to their

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study of psychology. It is a book which students may look at when new to psychology and again when they are more familiar with the subject.

Alison Wadeley

Ann Birch

Tony Malim

DARWIN'S THEORY LIVES ! I SURVIVED
THE MONDAY MORNING RUSH-HOUR !