



PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the science of brain and behaviour. It attempts to answer fundamental questions about the human experience from a (mainly) scientific perspective. Psychologists study why humans think and behave as they do. How can we explain and treat mental illness? How do the people around us influence our behaviour? To what extent can Biology help explain the human condition? These are just a few of the many questions you will be answering as a Psychology student.

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is a fascinating subject and one of the most popular A-level subjects in the country. Studying Psychology allows us to understand more about the human condition, helps us make sense of the world around us and most importantly, can be applied to offer solutions to real-world problems.

Psychology offers a unique academic experience. Psychology is a social science, but the influence of emerging fields such as cognitive neuroscience are increasingly blurring the lines between Psychology and Biology. As Psychology is such a young science, we spend much of the time evaluating the research we have studied.

Why skills will I develop?

There are many skills you will develop as a Psychologist which Universities and employers value highly. Effective written communication, research and analytical skills are developed throughout the course. Psychology exams requires students to describe key theories and studies, apply this information to real-life scenarios and finally, evaluate this material.

What is a typical Psychology lesson?

Lessons offer a wide range of different learning opportunities and activities with a group of enthusiastic and knowledgeable teacher. Written work is conducted alongside group discussion, videos and practicals.

What GCSEs do I need?

A 'B' or above is required in English and Maths. You should have a minimum of 5 appropriate GCSEs at grades A-C.

What does the course consist of and how are students assessed?

YEAR 1 or AS-level only

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment

Assessment: written exam, 72 marks, 90-minute exam

Questions: multiple-choice, short answer and extended answer (12 marks)

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

Assessment: written exam, 72 marks, 90-minute exam

Questions: multiple-choice, short answer and extended answer (12 marks)

YEAR 2

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Assessment: written exam: 2 hours: 96 marks in total: 33.3% of A level.

Questions: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 16 marks

Paper 2: Psychology in context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

Assessment: written exam: 2 hours: 96 marks in total: 33.3% of A level.

Questions: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 16 marks.

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

- Issues and Debates
- Aggression
- Schizophrenia
- Cognition & Development

Assessment: written exam: 2 hours: 96 marks in total: 33.3% of A level.

Questions: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 16 marks.