



A Level Psychology

Key contact: Mrs E Israel (Head of Psychology)
Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the course:

It is an extremely popular subject and for good reason... we are all interested in people! We spend much of our time thinking and talking about why people behave as they do. This is an opportunity to gain a scientific insight into the human mind and behaviour.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You do not have to have a Psychology GCSE to study this course but should have an established interest in the subject and enjoy wider reading of the relevant literature.

The course will appeal to those students who:

- have an interest in human behaviour
- want to go beyond 'common sense' explanations
- enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- enjoy a scientific approach
- are willing to consider evidence critically

Psychology is recognised by employers, further education and higher education institutions as a subject that develops a wide range of skills and understanding.

What will you study?

There are eight compulsory topics of study across the A Level course including:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods
- Issues and debates in Psychology

Some questions you will explore over the course include:

- Why do people change their behaviour in a group situation?
- How does our memory work?
- Are the attachment types of babies different across the world?
- How do we define what is 'abnormal'?
- Is human behaviour the same of that of animals?

Assessment

The A Level is assessed via exams – there is no coursework involved.

As this is a linear course, content from across the two years of study will be examined at the end of the second year.

- Paper 1 = two hours → Introductory Topics in Psychology
- Paper 2 = two hours → Psychology in Context
- Paper 3 = two hours → Issues and Options in Psychology

All papers carry equal weighting.

Possible career path?

Employment opportunities exist in:

- Education
- Health
- Business
- Government
- Armed Forces
- Law Enforcement
- Prison Services

Psychology links at Higher Education:

In addition to Psychology, some of the courses students may choose to study at higher education include Sociology, Law, Youth and Community Studies, Teaching, Sports Studies, Nursing & Medicine.

Entry requirements

Ideally students will have five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including:

- Grade 6 in English;
- Grade 5 in Maths; and
- Grade 6 in a Science, ideally in Biology;

Students can study **a maximum of two subjects** from Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care and Criminology.