

A-level Psychology

Board and Specification: AQA 7182
Staff: Head of Psychology and Criminology
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Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature and/or Language
- Grade 5 in GCSE Science

What skills are required of students?

- The ability to learn and retain new information and key concepts at a fast pace, to include the use of scientific and mathematical terminology.
- Excellent communication and discussion skills, to be demonstrated both verbally and through written work. Therefore, the ability to write extended answers coherently, showing development of argument is particularly important.
- The mathematical ability to analyse data.
- A commitment to understanding how the human mind works and how this influences behaviour, by undertaking independent reading and research (a minimum of 9 hours per fortnight).
- The maturity to deal with challenging, sensitive topics.

Psychology can be defined as the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. One of the main aims of the A Level Psychology course is to provide students with an opportunity to acquire a better understanding of how the human mind works and how this affects behaviour. We will do this by studying not only individuals, but also groups and societies, from several theoretical approaches. As an A-level Psychology student, in your first year, you will study introductory topics in Psychology, learning about conformity, social norms, how the mind remembers and forgets, how children form attachments and clinical psychology and mental health. You will also study psychology in context, learning about the different approaches in psychology and research methods. In the second year, you'll deepen your understanding of human behaviour, by studying issues and debates in psychology, and three further topics outlined overleaf. This course is assessed entirely through examination and carries mathematical content worth at least 10% of the marks.

Modules titles and codes:

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology - Written exam: 2 hours; 96 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level. Topics include: Memory, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health, Attachment, Social Influence, Research Methods.

Paper 2: Psychology in context - Written exam: 2 hours; 96 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level. Topics include: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods

Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology – Written exam: 2 hours; 96 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level. Compulsory Topic: Issues and Debates in Psychology. Then, three additional topics comprising of relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology.

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

Research	Essay writing
Writing notes	Conducting your own experiments
Revising key topics	Challenging discussion

What other A-levels does your subject connect well with?

Because psychologists use scientific methodology and apply this to humans, A-level Psychology links well to both humanities and science-based subjects, including A-levels in: Biology, English Literature, History, Religious Studies, Sociology and Criminology.

What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?

Psychology is a suitable course for a wide range of careers that involve working with people, as well as for progression on to higher education. Psychology is a well-regarded academic subject which prepares students for a variety of university courses and careers including, Psychology, Sociology, mental health, counselling, education, sport, the media, law, marketing and finance, the police and criminology.