



A-level Psychology

Board and Specification: AQA 7182

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Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature and/or Language
- Grade 5 in GCSE Science

What skills are required of students?

Excellent communication and discussion skills.

The ability to learn and retain information and key concepts at a fast pace.

A commitment to understanding how the human mind works and how this influences behaviour.

The maturity to deal with challenging, sensitive topics, especially when studying areas linked to the study of psychopathology and eating behaviour.

Course Details

Psychology is a fascinating subject which both challenges and captivates students of all abilities. 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 and how children form attachments. You will also study *Psychology in Context*, learning about the different approaches in psychology and *Research Methods*, where you will design and conduct your own psychological research. In the second year of your A-level course, you'll deepen your understanding of human behavior, by studying *Issues and Debates in Psychology*, and three further topics, taken from each of three option groups. We are currently studying *Forensic Psychology*, *Relationships and Eating Behaviour*. At A-level, there are three exams, each accounting for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple-choice, short answer and extended writing questions. This course is assessed entirely through examination.

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:

Social influence
Attachment

Memory
Psychopathology

Paper 2: Psychology in context - Written exam: 2 hours; 96 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level

Topics include:

Approaches in psychology

Research methods
Biopsychology

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** from the range below:

Relationships
Cognition and Development
Eating Behaviour
Aggression
Addiction

Gender
Schizophrenia
Stress
Forensic Psychology

This year, we are studying Relationships, Eating Behaviour and Forensic Psychology.

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

Research
Writing notes
Revising key topics

Essay writing
Conducting your own experiments
Challenging discussion

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

Psychology connects well with many other subjects, including A-levels in: Biology, English Literature, History, Religious Studies and Sociology.

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

Psychology, English, philosophy, sociology, criminology, law.