

A Level Psychology



Why this subject?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human brain and mind and how this helps to explain issues within society today. It's all about what makes people 'tick' and how we can use research to explain historical events in the past. Psychology is an exciting and ever growing subject that has the potential to unlock a different part of your mind, by analysing behaviour in a new manner. Psychology will compliment other like minded subjects such as: Sociology, History, Media, Business studies, Biology and English.

Course Outline

Year 12:

Within Year 12, you will learn about the following topics: Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Approaches and Research Methods. By the end of year 12, you will be able to explain historical past events such as "Why did the Holocaust occur?", "How does our attachment with our parents affect our attachment later in life with romantic partners?", "Why do people develop depression and OCD?" and "Who created Psychology?". Year 12 solidly prepares you for further knowledge in Year 13. You will learn the art of exam technique building up to 12 mark essay questions.

Year 13

Within Year 13, you will learn about the following topics: Forensic Psychology, Cognition and development, Schizophrenia, Biopsychology, Issues/debates in Psychology and Research Methods. By the end of year 13, you will be able to establish the multiple reasons for committing crime as well as creating your own offender profile to profile a criminal from a case study. You will also be able to analyse the causes of schizophrenia and how this is later treated. In addition, Biopsychology analyses how different parts of our brain can take control of our behaviour as well as the results of what happens if we were to cut our brains in half! In year 13, you will have an extensive level of knowledge and skill to boost your essays from 12 marks to 16 marks.



Key Information

Exam Board	AQA
Qualification Type	A Level
Entry Requirements	A Level Pathway. Level 6 English & Maths.
Head of Department	Mrs Hillier

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Assessment Outline

In year 13, you will sit three external exams prepared by AQA. They will consist of Paper 1, 2 & 3.

Paper 1:

Introductory Topics in Psychology (Social influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology).

Paper 2:

Psychology in context (Approaches, Research methods and Biopsychology)

Paper 3:

Issues and options in Psychology (Forensic Psychology, Cognition and development, Schizophrenia and Issues/Debates)

Each paper consists of a 2-hour written exam that consists of a total of 96 marks. Each paper will be worth 33.3% of the A-level.



What do our students say?

"I didn't realise how much I had developed until Year 13. I now find myself analysing all behaviour on social media. Psychology has made me look at human behaviour differently" - Year 13 Student

"Psychology has been very enjoyable and in particular I have loved learning about social influence and conformity. I see it in every day life" - Year 12 student

Careers and next steps

Psychology is a broad subject that helps you to understand people and as a result will be beneficial in many workplaces. Psychology will help in preparing you for degree programmes for which some knowledge of psychology may be an advantage. Similar to other sciences, Psychology helps you to build up research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills. It opens up opportunities into higher or further education - and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements to many relevant courses, if taken as part of a programme of learning alongside other qualifications. Psychology students often pursue further education in Psychology and some students have progressed to study: Criminal Psychology, Biopsychology and Cognitive neuroscience.

