



A level

Psychology

### What will I learn?

Psychology is the study of the mind and it attempts to explain all forms of human behaviour, why we think and behave in the way we do, and can therefore be very challenging. The course focuses on a variety of very different areas of Psychology: how are people influenced to commit such barbaric acts such as the Nazi Holocaust? How influential are your early childhood experiences on your adult life? Is eyewitness testimony reliable and should it be used in a court of law? How has the definition of mental illness changed over time? What is gender, are there more than two? What causes Schizophrenia? Are serial killers born or made?

This psychology course leads students into the thought provoking and controversial theories of numerous psychologists including Pavlov, Skinner and Freud. A vast array of research examples are investigated to provide students with specific insights into Psychology and students are provided with the opportunity to conduct and analyse their own research.

Students develop their understanding of Psychology through an engagement in activities such as paired work, problem-solving exercises and independent research that all require skills of mental processing and the application of reason to an issue. Students are provided with opportunities to develop their thinking skills and to grow as independent learners.

Psychology compliments other subjects such as Biology and Sociology.

### What could this course lead on to?

Psychology students are found in many walks of life but usually in a career that centres on the challenges of modern society such as; social services, education, criminal justice, government and counselling. It is also an obvious choice for those wishing to study Psychology at University or pursue a career as a (occupational, health, forensic, sport, educational or clinical) psychologist.

The course will appeal to students who are:

- fascinated by human behaviour
- wanting to deepen their understanding about motivations underpinning people's behaviour
- keen to excel in a subject which is rooted both in Science and the Humanities
- Keen to develop their skills of explaining issues, weighing up arguments, making judgments and the advanced skill of constructing complex accounts
- Capable of understanding challenging and competing information – psychology is not easy!

### Entry Requirements:

Minimum of a GCSE grade 6 in two science subjects, (if you have three science grades then you must have a GCSE grade 6 or above in Biology) **plus** a minimum of GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and English Language or English Literature.

### Key content and assessment

	Title	Style of Assessment
<b>Paper 1</b>	Social influence Memory Attachment Psychopathology	120 minute exam 33.3% of A Level award Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.
<b>Paper 2</b>	Approaches in psychology Biopsychology Research methods	120 minute exam 33.3% of A Level award Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.
<b>Paper 3</b>	Issues and debates in psychology Gender Schizophrenia Forensic Psychology	120 minute exam 33.3% of A Level award Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.

### Course Details

**Awarding Body:** AQA

**Website Specific Number:** Website: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) Specification Number: 7182

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