

# Psychology A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: GCSE grade 6 in English, Grade 6 in maths

## Subject Content

Psychology will help you understand yourself and other people by learning about different aspects of human behaviour that will help you in daily life, including your interactions with others, your learning and memory performance, your ability to cope with pressure and your understanding of the causes of psychological disorders.

### Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

This unit includes learning about social influence (why we obey, conform and change the majority's point of view), memory (how it works, why we forget and how memory works with crime), attachment (how our relationships with caregivers as children affect us as adults) and psychopathology (how mental health disorders affect people and how they are treated).

### Paper 2: Psychology in Context:

This unit includes learning about the different schools of psychology from behaviourist to biopsychology, how stress is registered and how human behaviour is studied as a psychological science.

### Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology:

This unit includes learning about psychological debates (such as is it nature or nurture that is more important), relationships (why we need them and why they break down), schizophrenia (what it is, the different causes and treatment), and aggression (how it occurs in gangs, why we are aggressive people and if there is a biological basis).

### Skills gained and enrichment opportunities:

Psychology develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace. There will be opportunity to go on trips to conferences, museums in addition to hearing from speakers invited into the academy (i.e. psychologists and hypnotists).

## Assessments

Students are required to take the AS psychology examination in May. Although the result and grade they receive does not count towards their final A level grade it is a benefit to see how well the students are progressing in the subject.

Psychology A level is a linear A level and is 100% exam based at the end of the two academic years.

There are three 2-hour exams at the end of the course year. All exams contain a mix of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Additionally, regular internal assessments will take place through out the year.



### Progression/career opportunities:

You will develop skills valued by higher education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. Knowledge of psychology would be useful in many careers, for instance medicine, education, probation work or human resources. To become a psychologist you will need a good psychology degree followed by postgraduate training in areas such as clinical, educational, or forensic psychology.

### Further information:

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