AQA Psychology A Level

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the study of the human mind. Students will learn to answer questions such as "what is normal?", "what drives people to commit horrible acts against one another?" and "are we born evil?". By delving deep into human behaviour, we aim for our psychologists to become ambitious, curious and deeply empathetic individuals.

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is a fascinating subject that will give you an insight into why we behave the way we do. Psychology explores deep questions about human behaviour that will develop your ability to think critically about what you see. Psychology is an extremely broad subject that would offer an advantage to any further area of education/employment you are interested in.

University degrees that require or often prefer Psychology include:

The study of Psychology at this level provides an excellent route to higher education in the following fields: Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Sports Science, Education, Nursing and Midwifery, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy.

Possible careers:

Psychology is an excellent passport to a number of different occupations including those that relate directly to Psychology: clinical psychologist, educational psychologist, occupational psychologist, lecturer, forensic psychologist, counsellor, and neuroscientist. It could also lead to careers that indirectly relate to Psychology including: education, human resources, advertising/marketing, media, banking and finance.

Entry Requirements

Minimum grade 6 in GCSE English Language, Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and a Grade 5 in GCSE Science.

Unit title	Description
Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology	Students will explore a range of introductory theories and concepts in this paper. Students will begin by exploring our social behaviour including psychological explanations as to why we obey certain individuals and conform in group settings. Students will use this information to explain how social change occurs. Students will then move onto looking at how our memory works and apply this to the field of eye witness testimony. Students will then move onto looking at the role of early childhood attachments and the impact healthy and unhealthy attachments can have on later childhood and adult relationships. Finally, in this paper students will explore psychological explanations for and treatment of Phobias, OCD and Depression.
Paper 2 Psychology in Context	In this topic students will cover some foundational components of knowledge and skill essential for a strong understanding of Psychology. Students will first examine different approaches in Psychology including how different psychologists explain behaviour and conduct research. Then students will move onto Biopsychology. In this unit they will explore key physiological processes involved in psychological behaviour. Finally, students will explore Research Methods – becoming familiar with the key processes and skills involved in conducting psychological research.
Paper 3 Issues & Options in Psychology	Students will begin this topic by exploring key issues and debates in Psychology. This includes the extent to which Psychology can be considered a science and whether our behaviour is a product of nature or nurture. Students then study a series of optional topics carefully selected by their teachers. Students will explore different psychological theories of development and how children learn to be social beings. Then students will be able to explain what is meant by schizophrenia and consider psychological explanations and treatments for schizophrenia. Finally, students will examine criminal behaviour looking a range of psychological theories to explain how and why an individual comes to commit a crime. They will then apply this knowledge to how criminals are punished and rehabilitated.

Experiences outside the classroom?

- Trips to London – Freud Museum
- Trip to West Midlands Safari Park – Phobias Workshop
- Guest speakers in lesson

SUMMER 2024 RESULTS!

A*-A = 29%

A*-C = 89%