

A-Level Psychology is a two year course which focuses on 11 topics. Each topic explores a different area of human behaviour or an internal process. Each psychological approach provides students with a different perspective on human behaviour. During the two years students will explore which approach they agree with the most.

To support student progress and achievement, our teachers support students to demonstrate their learning. The examinations will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures.
- AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures.
- AO3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to make judgements and reach conclusions.

Qualities and qualifications needed

- Grade 6 in psychology (if studied) or Grade 5 in English language, if not. Grade 5 in Mathematics is required.
- Must have an interest in why people act the way they do.
- An ability to read extensively outside of the classroom and complete independent learning of other kinds.
- Must have a good written style and willingness to write extended essays.
- Knowledge and competence in statistical mathematics.

How will the course be assessed?



This course is 100% examination at the end of Year 13.

There is no coursework element or opportunities to resit any examination during the two years.



Course Content

The course is broken down into mandatory units which are studies relating to psychological theory. The units studied include:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Clinical psychology & mental health
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods
- Issues and debates
- Three option units

To see success you need to have an analytical mind, competence with statistical mathematics and an interest in the world at large and explanations for behaviours.

The course would lead into higher education opportunities, such as studying psychology, social sciences, criminology, politics and social policy. It could also lead to careers in multiple fields in psychology – for example child psychology, research posts, education and teaching.



Examinations

3 x 2 hour papers

Assessment in A–Level Psychology takes place via three two hour papers which include a combination of multiple choice, short and extended answer questions.

Paper 1

- Attachment
- Memory
- Social influence
- Psychopathology

Paper 2

- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

Paper 3

- Issues and debates (x 3 option units)

An 'extended response' is evidence of sufficient length generated to allow students to demonstrate their ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured.

Methods of curriculum delivery

Students will be taught in the classroom. As with all A–Level subjects it is expected that students will complete a great deal of independent learning each week. Students will be set weekly homework tasks and will follow a structured revision programme to support their success in Psychology.
