



PSYCHOLOGY

QUALIFICATION: AS/A2 Level

Examination Board: AQA

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the science of the mind and behaviour. The human mind is the most complex phenomenon on earth, and source of all behaviour. Psychologists study human behaviour scientifically, in an attempt to illuminate our understanding of human and animal behaviours. As such, psychology is a hugely transferable subject found in everything we do. Psychologists explore both causes and treatments of mental health, how we learn and develop, who we are attracted to and why our friends become friends. Psychology explores the influences of society and how we can influence people's behaviour to such an extent that they do not even realise they are being manipulated all at the same time making huge breakthroughs in other fields such as Biology and Sociology.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

- No previous Psychology study is expected.
- You should keep in mind that Psychology is a science subject. An interest in applying scientific research methods to questions about the mind and about human behaviour is essential.
- There is a great deal of analysis and evaluation in Psychology. You should enjoy applying different theories to the same question and analysing research evidence to assess which theories have the most scientific support.
- Students will be expected to have a grade 5 or above in English and 4 in Maths and Science.

What will I learn on this A Level course?

- Approaches in Psychology- Learning approach, Cognitive approach, Biological approach.
- Social Psychology – Conformity, Obedience and Prejudice
- Cognitive Psychology- Memory and other thought processes
- Biological Psychology- Genetics and brain functioning
- Developmental Psychology - Attachment and early relationships
- Psychopathology – Mental illness, Schizophrenia, Depression, Anxiety and Phobias.
- Issues and Debates – Areas of dispute in Psychology
- Research Methods – Carrying out psychological research and analysis of results

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- Are interested in human behaviour, why we behave the way we do and the complexities of Human mental health.
- Enjoy taking a scientific approach when examining how and why people behave in certain ways.
- Enjoy practical as well as theoretical work.
- Wish to complement other AS and A levels such as Biology, History, English, Sociology, Criminology, Health and Social Care, Child Play Learning and development and Geography and PE.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

- Degree courses in Psychology, Social Sciences, Nursing, Social Work
- Train in Clinical, Occupational, Educational, Sport, Health or Forensic psychology
- Seek employment in areas such as market research, sales, human resources, care sector, advertising

Further information about psychology is also available on www.BPS.org.uk

You can also find more information about the course on the [AQA website](#).