

SUBJECT: GCE A-Level Psychology

YEAR: 12 and 13

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mr Mitchell

HEAD OF DOMAIN: Mrs Barker

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Link: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF>

Curriculum Intent

Psychology aims to offer students the opportunity to gain an understanding of a vital part of life, which is not part of the national curriculum: how people work! We aim to provide students with key foundations in psychology to enable them to either progress to university, or to use the knowledge they gain at A-level to have a more self-reflective understanding of themselves and to build more empathy and understanding of others, to support them in their life after Rednock. Psychology offers a wide range of skill development including scientific discovery, maths and the written language. Students will develop independence and confidence in managing workload and achieve their potential by developing high aspirations to support their careers in the future.

Curriculum Content

YEAR 1: Course Content: (AS- 1-year course)

1. Social Influence - This is where we look at conformity and how people are influenced by others. We will look at obedience and why we obey certain individuals and how we can use research in order to change the views of the majority in order to support minority views.
2. Memory - This unit explores what memory is and how our memory works. We will look at the different types of memory and how research on memory can support our ability to improve our lives and how you can become successful in your education and future careers.
3. Attachment - This topic explores what we mean by attachment and why we have particular individuals such as parents/ carers and grandparents that we become incredibly fond of. We will look at how our early childhoods have an impact on our behaviour as an adult and what happens if people never form attachments.
4. Approaches in Psychology - This is a vital topic in psychology. Here we will explore the history of psychology and how it has come to be one of the most popular subjects to study. We will look at how it became a science and how different psychologists view the same behaviour differently and offer different explanations such for these behaviours.
5. Psychopathology - This topic looks at abnormality and what is meant by the term normal and abnormal. We will explore mental health and focus on definitions, explanations and alternative treatment methods for Phobias, OCD and Depression.

6. **Research Methods** - This is a pivotal part of psychology and the topic that makes psychology so successful as a science. Research methods makes up 33% of the overall grade and looks at how psychologists create and conduct research and how we can explore the ethical problems that might occur preventing our ability to conduct research to support human behaviour and the progression of society.

YEAR 2: Course Content (A-Level Only)

1. **Research Methods** - This topic is an extension of the one taught in year 1 (As year) this unit is specifically for developing more advanced understanding of methods and statistics. We will look at psychology's ability to offer statistical data to offer convincing explanations as to why and how humans behave.
2. **Issues and Debates** - This topic is interesting and dynamic. It explores different debates surrounding our ability to understand human behaviour such as Are we born with our behaviours or are they learned from our environments. What are the implications for this such as criminal lawsuits and supporting those in education. Should researchers look in depth at fewer people to get an insight on human behaviour or should larger groups of people be studied in order to get an understanding of human behaviour.
3. **Gender** - This topic is informative and full of discussion within current social contextual debates. What is gender and what impact does this have on our Identity? Is gender biological in nature? Is it a social construct? How do our thoughts and previous experience contribute to our gender and we further explore Freud and his views about gender construction.
4. **Schizophrenia** - This topic looks at one of the most fascinating psychological conditions and the impact it has on people's lives. We look at symptoms, diagnosis and the accuracy of our ability to diagnose schizophrenia. We will explore a range of explanations from biology to cognition and determine what treatments are available for those who are schizophrenic and whether they are effective at treating the condition.
5. **Aggression** - This topic explores what aggression is and where this comes from. We look at the biological explanations as to why people are aggressive and the implications of this if it were completely true. We explore the behavioural explanations and the influence of environmental cues that result in some being more aggressive than others including the role of the media.

ASSESSMENT:

AS Assessment: 2 papers (1 hour 30 Minutes per paper)

- **Paper 1:** 50% (topics 1-3)
- **Paper 2:** 50% (topics 4-6)

A-Level Assessment 3 Papers (2 hours per paper)

- **Paper 1:** 33.3% (topics 1-4)
- **Paper 2:** 33.3% (topics 5-7)
- **Paper 3:** 33.3% (topics 8-11)

LINKS TO CURRICULUM:

These subjects work well in combination with the following subjects:

- Biology
- Applied Science
- Sociology
- Criminology
- Health and Social Care.

RESOURCES:

- Textbooks
- Folder
- Stationery