

KS4 GCSE Psychology

Course Specifications

Exam board: AQA
Course type: GCSE

Course Description

Psychology is a scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychologists try to gain an understanding of what motivates challenges and changes our behaviour to understand the world we live in. Psychologists carry out investigations such as experiments and observations to find out about the way people behave and interact.

Skills & Abilities

Studying Psychology will develop your understanding of human behaviour and provide you with specialist psychological knowledge on theories and key concepts. It will also strengthen your descriptive, analytical and evaluative skills which are vital for the exam. Having an understanding of different personalities and behaviour patterns will also allow you to build on your communication and interpersonal skills which will be helpful for team work activities.

Assessment

The AQA GCSE Psychology programme is examination based and you will be required to sit two exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam will cover FOUR topics each and will contain a mixture of questions (i.e. multiple choice, short answer & extended writing).

Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour (50% of GCSE grade)	Paper 2: Social Context and behaviour (50% of GCSE grade)
Topics that will be covered: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Memory2. Perception3. Development4. Research Methods	Topics that will be covered: <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Social Influence6. Language, thought and communication7. Brain and neuropsychology8. Psychological Problems

Careers & Progression

Psychology can be useful in jobs that involve understanding human behaviour and where interacting with theirs is necessary. The skills you gain from you studying Psychology can be useful for working in mental health, social work, teaching, research and management.

Popular careers within Psychology are listed below:

Clinical/Counselling	Helping people with mental health needs.
Education	Supporting children who are experiencing difficulties with their education.
Forensic	Examining criminal behaviour and working closely with offenders and victims of crime.
Occupational	Developing strategies to help businesses increase job satisfaction for employees.
Neuropsychology	Examining functions of the brain and treating people with brain injuries.
Sport	Supporting people to develop mental strategies to improve their performance under the constant pressures they face.

Guidance & Advice

Further reading

Twenty years ago, an everyday virus destroyed Clive Wearing's brain. Now, all he can remember is music - and his wife. Here, Deborah Wearing tells Louise France how their enduring love has become the one constant in a marriage without memory.

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2005/jan/23/biography.features3>

Can you trust your memory? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkvOMt34hAo>

What is memory https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXx_LXNjetU

Perception and sensation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SErqVGcAR0>

Brain development <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tp25wrm-AoA>

What is conformity <https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/basics/conformity>

The language of body language

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/theory-knowledge/201302/the-language-body-language>