

KS4 GCSE - Psychology

Course Specifications

Exam board: [AQA](#)

Course type: [GCSE](#)

Course Description

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour.

Psychologists attempt to gain an understanding of what motivates, challenges and changes our behaviour to understand the world we live in. They 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 group dynamic. You will be required to build key time management, research and problem solving skills to succeed within this subject.

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 essay writing questions).

Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour (50% of GCSE grade)

Topics include: Perception, Memory, Development and Research Methods.

Paper 2: Social Context and behaviour (50% of GCSE grade)

Topics include: Social Influence, Language, thought & communication, Brain & Neuropsychology and Psychological problems.

Careers & Progression

Psychology can be useful in jobs that involve understanding human behaviour as an individual or within a group context. The skills you gain from you studying Psychology can be useful for working within many professions depending on the different areas within Psychology.

The different areas of **psychology** are...



Popular [careers](#) within Psychology:

Mental health, Science, Social work, Teaching, Research and Management.

Guidance & Advice

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 on this story [here](#).

[Can you trust your memory?](#)

[What is memory?](#)

[Perception and sensation](#)

[Brain development](#)

[What is conformity?](#)

[The language of body language](#)

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