

A Level Psychology



➤ Introduction

A-Level Psychology, as per the AQA specification, offers a comprehensive exploration of the scientific study of human behaviour. It covers a range of psychological approaches, key theories, research methods, and the application of psychology to real-world issues. The course encourages critical thinking and an understanding of how psychology can explain behaviour and mental processes.

➤ What will I learn?

Key Issues and Debates: Exploring topics like nature vs. nurture, free will vs. determinism, the psychology of gender, and ethics in psychological research.

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Core Topics:

Social Influence: Understanding how social factors (like conformity, obedience, and group behaviour) influence individual behaviour.

Memory: Exploring models of memory, how we store, retrieve, and forget information, and the reliability of eyewitness testimony.

Attachment: Examining the role of attachment in child development and its influence on later relationships.

Psychopathology: Understanding mental health issues such as depression, OCD, and phobias, as well as the approaches to treatment.

Biopsychology: Investigating the role of the brain, nervous system, and hormones in behaviour.

Applications:

Gender, Schizophrenia, Forensic: Studying these areas from psychological and biological perspectives.

➤ How will I be assessed?

Component	Type	Duration	Weight
Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (7182/1)	Exam	2hrs	33%
Paper 2: Psychology in Context (7182/2)	Exam	2hrs	33%
Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology (7182/3)	Exam	2hrs	33%

Key Information:

- All components are externally assessed – no coursework.
- Each exam is 2 hours long and consists of a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-response questions.

➤ Opportunities

You will have the chance to attend a number of trips including a visit to Freud's house and a trip to the supreme courts.

You will also have the chance to apply psychological concepts to real-world scenarios, from criminal behaviour to mental health, giving the course practical relevance, by completing research projects.

➤ Other subjects?

Many students find psychology is complementary to Biology, Sociology, Philosophy, Sports, Economics and Maths.

➤ Future Careers

If you're interested in pursuing psychology at a deeper level, A-Level Psychology is a strong foundation for several university degrees, including: Bsc or BA in Psychology: clinical psychologist, Counselling Psychology: Forensic Psychology, Educational Psychology and Occupational Psychology.

➤ Course Information

Course Code - 7182

Examination Board - AQA