

Psychology



Curriculum Intent

Key Stage 5

Many students choose to study Psychology at A Level because they are interested in learning about human behaviour through the scientific study of a variety of topics such as mental health issues, human relationships and criminal behaviour. Around a quarter to a third of our students typically go on to study Psychology or related subjects such as Criminology at University.

The intent of this course is to develop students' knowledge, application and evaluation of psychological theories and studies, and their mathematical, practical, and analytical skills in research methods. This is to prepare students to meet the assessment objectives of the A Level course and also to give them a solid foundation in the knowledge and skills needed for further study at University. We achieve this by bringing Psychology to life through the use of class discussions, experiments, creative activities and the refining of exam technique through the routine practice of examination style questions, including essay questions. Student progress is routinely monitored through the use of termly mid and end of topic tests, plus annual Mock examinations.

Curriculum Implementation

Key Stage 5: A Level (AQA)

The Psychology A level course comprises three two-hour papers taken at the end of the two-year course. All assessment is by written exam and there is no coursework requirement. Each of the three A level exams is worth a third of the total A level marks. Each exam includes multiple-choice, short-answer and extended essay writing questions. Paper One and elements of Paper 2 (Research Methods and Approaches) are taught in Year 12. Paper 3 and the remainder of Paper 2 (Biopsychology) are taught in Year 13.

Years 12 and 13

Paper One 33.3% of A Level - 2 hour paper (96 marks)

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper Two 33.3% of A Level - 2 hour paper (96 marks)

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

Paper Three 33.3% of A Level - 2 hour paper (96 marks)

- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Gender
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology