



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)	Paper Two 33.3% of A Level - 2 hour paper (96 marks)	Paper Three 33.3% of A Level - 2 hour paper (96 marks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Influence • Memory • Attachment • Psychopathology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches in Psychology • Biopsychology • Research methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues and Debates in Psychology • Gender • Schizophrenia • Forensic Psychology

Impact

Key Stage 5

Impact will be evidenced in students' ability to understand and recall information, but more importantly to select and apply this knowledge to unfamiliar exam questions and scenarios. This will be evidenced in assessments at the end of each topic. These assessments will provide the opportunity to address misconceptions and facilitate appropriate teacher interventions.

Impact can also be measured in terms of progression throughout the course. When learning a new topic, students are able to draw upon prior learning and see the connections between different areas of knowledge. For example, students will be able to effectively recall and apply core content from Year 12 topics such as Research Methods and Approaches when learning new Year 13 content.

Furthermore, impact will be measured in final examination results and student progress in relation to their target grade. We know our curriculum is working in the Psychology department as examination results are consistently above the national average, with the majority of students attaining at or above their target grade.

Impact can also be measured in how prepared students feel for further study and the world of work. The variety of teaching and learning strategies employed throughout the two year course, will ensure that students have a confident base of transferable skills in areas including revision and exam technique, discussion and debate, working as a team, delivering presentations and conducting research.

Crucially, students frequently express their enjoyment of Psychology, the quality of teaching they have received and their appreciation of the knowledge and skills they have gained from the department. This impact can be observed in the engagement of students in lessons and also recorded in student voice.