



## **Psychology Curriculum Information - A Level**

As students embark on studying A Level Psychology, we thought it would be useful to share with you an overview of the course.

### **Key Stage 5 Psychology**

The examination board for A Level Psychology is AQA 7872. You can find the full specification, past examination questions and mark schemes here: [AQA A Level Psychology 7872](#)

The Psychology A Level comprises three two-hour papers taken at the end of the two-year course. All assessment is by written examination and there is no coursework requirement.

From the outset we embed specialist terminology and provide an understanding of the research methods that are at the heart of the course. We also spend a significant amount of time supporting students with examination techniques, including essay writing.

In Year 12, we cover Paper One units (Social Influence, Psychopathology, Attachment and Memory) and elements of Paper 2 (Research Methods and Approaches).

In Year 13, the remainder of Paper 2 (Biopsychology) and the entirety of Paper 3 (Issues and Debates, Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensics) are taught. We also leave ample time for consolidation and revision at the end of the course, to best prepare students for their exams.

For more details on the structure of the course, please see the KS5 Psychology Learning Journey on the AHS Psychology webpage.

### **Required resources**

Students need to bring their Chromebook/laptop to every lesson as all class and homework assignments are set digitally via their Google Classroom. In addition, students are encouraged to organise their work using the Psychology Google Site template, enabling them to create their own personal website of Psychology notes for ease of reference and revision.

### **Useful Resources and Wider Reading**

Please see this [document](#), that has also been shared with students, for links to our online textbooks and other useful resources, including wider reading, podcasts and weblinks.

If students require a hard copy of the textbooks, we can provide these free of charge to students with special educational needs and/or financial constraints. Please can they speak to/email Mrs Jayatillake to request this. Other students may choose to purchase their own copy e.g. from Amazon.

### **Homework**

For all A Level subjects, students are expected to complete one hour of independent study for every hour of taught lessons. For Psychology, this may include consolidation of lesson content, exam question practice, wider reading, or revision. Homework is reviewed in class where feedback is given in line with the school marking policy and exam board assessment criteria.

Students are strongly encouraged to create revision notes and essay plans for the content they learn on an ongoing basis. Even if there is 'no official homework' on any given week, there is always consolidation that can be done!

Please encourage your child to:

- Use the Google Classroom to find out about work missed due to absence
- Use study periods to complete work in school
- Engage with the recommended resources, including wider reading
- Find a 'study buddy' with whom to discuss the work and revise
- Students will be fascinated by what they learn in A Level Psychology, so encourage them to share their learning with you and ask questions that encourage critical thinking e.g.:
  - How generalisable/valid/ethical is the study that you just described?
  - What evidence is there to support that theory?
  - What alternative explanations could there be?
  - What treatment/intervention would be best to deal with that issue?

If a student is struggling and needs additional support, they are encouraged to speak to their class teachers and to attend a Psychology Clinic lunchtime session. Any students not completing their homework without good reason will be issued with a detention, as per the school's behaviour policy.

### **Assessment**

Examination questions are routinely used to assess student understanding in mid and end of topic tests. Students also sit a full two-hour paper in both the Year 12 summer assessment and the Year 13 Spring Mocks.

### **Careers**

Each year, around a quarter to a third of our students go on to study Psychology or related subjects at university. For other students, A Level Psychology provides transferable skills that are relevant to future careers in medicine, law, business, sports, health care, education, and the arts. Please see the following links for more information:

<https://www.bps.org.uk/career-options-psychology>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/psychology>

We support students hoping to study Psychology at university by advising on their personal statements and by providing interview practice for Russell group universities including Oxbridge. Every application is important to us, and we enjoy helping students to find a career path that best suits their skills and interests.

### **Co-curricular Psychology:**

The Psychology Subject Ambassadors run a Psychology Society each week as a lunchtime club. This provides the opportunity for all students to discuss a range of psychology topics, sharing what they have learnt from their wider reading.

There are also opportunities to attend A Level Psychology conferences to enrich student learning.

More information about A Level Psychology can be found on the [Psychology subject page](#) of the school's website.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Laura Jayatillake, Head of Psychology, at [ljayatillake@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:ljayatillake@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)