



A Level Psychology

The Psychology A Level follows the OCR Specification and is classed as life or medical science.

What Entry Requirements Do I Need?

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements will gain access to the course. A GCSE grade 4/5 in English and a 5 in Maths/Science is desirable as you will need to express yourself clearly in writing and be able to analyse numerical data. You must be willing to apply yourself consistently to a demanding but interesting subject.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment for the course will be examined through 3 two-hour exams at the end of the second year.

What Will I Learn On This Course?

Throughout the Psychology course you will develop both important knowledge and understanding as well as a number of key skills, including the following:

1. Your ability to learn independently
2. Your ability to critically analyse and evaluate research and theories
3. Your ability to carry out practical investigations and analyse data using descriptive and inferential statistics and write research reports.
4. Your understanding of scientific methodology and ethics
5. An understanding of debates in Psychology

Topics in Year One will include:

- **Social Psychology:** Obedience to Authority/Disobedience and Whistle Blowing
- **Cognitive Psychology:** Eyewitness memory/Context-dependent memory
- **Developmental Psychology:** Transmission of aggression/Funhaller study
- **Biological Psychology:** Split brain study/Neural correlates of delay gratification
- **Individual Differences:** Analysis of phobia/Autism in adults
- Research Methods and data analysis

Topics in Year Two will include:

- Issues in Mental Health including historical context of mental health, the medical model of mental illness and alternatives to the medical model of mental illness.
- Child Development including pre-adult brain development and attachment
- Criminal Psychology including what makes a criminal (including brain abnormalities) and the effects of imprisonment
- Areas as per year one but with 10 new studies

Assessment

There are three two-hour examinations taken at the end of the second year of the course: Research methods, Psychological Themes through Core Studies and Applied Psychology.

What Kind of Person Studies This Course?

If you have an interest about what makes people tick then Psychology, the science of mind and behaviour, provides a valuable background for all occupations where you are in contact with people. Psychology is academically rigorous and is accepted by all universities, including many medical schools as Psychology forms part of a medical degree.

Understanding people, how they develop and relate to each other will give you a head start in your personal and professional life. Understanding is the key to personal progression; Psychology has many professional and practical applications.

Where Will an A Level in Psychology Lead Me?

Psychology is used in most employment today: Police, Medical Profession, Advertising, Management, Leisure Industry, Retail, Personnel, Teaching, Training, Service Industries, Air Force, Engineering and many more.

Applied Psychology includes Sport and Exercise Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Research, Forensic & Criminal Psychology, Counselling, Advertising and many more.

Research in Psychology is wide and varying, covering such topics as Neuro-imagery, Child Development, Mental Illnesses and Media influences on behaviour.