

## Why study A Level Psychology?

Psychology is a broad subject which covers a range of topics, all investigating how and why humans behave as they do. For example, does an imbalance of hormones make you more aggressive? Why were the Nazis able to kill 6 million Jewish people? Why do phobias develop and how can we treat them?

This course is challenging, but psychology is one of the most popular subjects to study at A Level and a flexible choice that sits very well alongside most other subjects, including humanities, maths and the sciences. Many universities view psychology as a science.

## What will I study?

Some topics will be a continuation of what was covered in GCSE such as social influence, research methods and memory but in greater depth.

We will also look at schizophrenia – what is it, how can we get it and is it treatable?; forensic psychology – profiling, what makes a killer and can they be rehabilitated? There are also topics on gender, psychopathology and attachment. There are links to maths and biology all throughout the course.

You will develop your skills of critical thinking and evaluation, as well as discussion and working in groups. There will be an opportunity for you to carry out your own piece of research and a subject of your choice. This will be a great opportunity if you were unable to do an EPQ.

## Assessment

100% examined.

**Paper 1:** Introductory topics in psychology. Written exam of 2 hours in length, consisting of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

**Paper 2:** Psychology in context. Written exam of 2 hours in length, consisting of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

**Paper 3:** Issues and options in psychology. Written exam of 2 hours in length, consisting of short and long answer questions.

## Study trips, visits and events

There are student conferences available throughout the year which aim to help students just starting out or nearly ready to take their exams. There is also the possibility of going to London or Bristol Zoo with a focus of investigating phobias or animal learning/ behaviours (links to psychology, behaviourism and attachment).

## Subject entry requirements

5 in Maths, plus 5 in either English Literature or Language.

**Please note:** If you have a grade 5 or less in maths, and take psychology without either another science or maths, you will complete Level 3 core maths alongside this subject.



## Student Perspective

“The course covers a broad range of really interesting and engaging topics which I enjoy researching in my own time too.”

Mariella, A Level Psychology student

“Psychology has really helped me develop many skills that I am able to transfer into real life and my future career path. The teachers are very supportive in helping me with any questions and will go into more depth if asked.”

Jess, A Level Psychology student