



Psychology



Overview

Psychology can be an interesting subject to study at A level, covering a broad range of topic areas. In addition to developing a general understanding of human motivation and behaviour, as a science, psychology helps to develop the skills of critical thinking and scientific enquiry. Psychology combines well with many other A level subjects, including Biology, Sociology, History, Politics & Physical Education to name just a few.

The most important requirements are **interest** and **enthusiasm**. A **commitment** to complete **homework** and **independent study** on time; and a **willingness** to participate in classwork, discussion, group work etc. to the full extent of one's ability.

Assessment

A Level – two year course	
Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	3 x 2 hour written exams each 96 marks multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions Each paper is 33.3% of A level
Paper 2: Psychology in Context Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research methods	
Paper 3: Issues & Options in Psychology Issues & Debates in Psychology (gender & culture bias, free will & determinism, holism & reductionism, nature-nurture, idiographic & nomothetic approaches, ethical implications) One topic from each of the following three options: Option 1: Relationships, Gender, Cognition & Development Option 2: Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour, Stress Option 3: Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Addiction	

Exam Board



Specification
A level: 7182

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>

Subject Specific Entry Requirements

Mathematical expertise is not necessary; however, students who have **less than** a grade 5 in GCSE Maths, Science & English may find some of the content of this course more challenging. If a student is not studying A level Maths, they can be invited to study AS Core Maths as a 4th subject alongside their Psychology course, as this has been shown to enhance student outcomes.

“Psychology was a new subject to me and though I had little prior knowledge, it is intriguing to me both inside and outside of the classroom. Being able to apply what you have learned to real life is fascinating.”

Maddie

Progression and Career Opportunities

Many students who study A Level Psychology go on to study it further at university, with some choosing to continue to study at postgraduate level to pursue a career as a psychologist in the areas of Neuroscience, Clinical, Counselling, Health, Sport, Forensic, Occupational or Educational Psychology. However, A level Psychology is a valuable qualification for many career paths, including a range of healthcare professions (e.g. nursing, midwifery, mental health nursing, paramedics, speech & language therapy, occupational therapy), childcare, police, prison service, sports coaching, business management/sales, human resources, social work, or even teaching. Psychology is a subject that provides students with both numeracy and literacy skills, along with many other transferrable skills such as critical analysis & research skills. Students who study psychology at A level may go on to study a variety of subjects at degree level including Applied Psychology, Biomedical sciences, Physiotherapy, Criminology, Law, Journalism & Business Studies to name just a few.