



Psychology A Level (AQA)

Why study this subject?

Psychology is the science of the mind and behaviour. The word 'Psychology' comes from the Greek word *psyche* meaning 'breath, spirit, soul', and the Greek word *logia* meaning the 'study of'. Put simply, it is the study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behaviour. Psychologists are interested in how we think, feel, act and interact both individually and in groups. It is a fascinating subject as it is directly relevant to all of us in explaining why people behave as they do.

Psychologists seek to understand the motivations underlying our behaviour and aim to analyse mental processes in a scientific manner. Psychology is classified as a science and this is reflected in the content and skill requirements of the A Level specification.

Studying A Level Psychology will help you learn to work independently and to carry out research. It will also help you see flaws in arguments, develop powers of reasoning and realise that things are not always as they seem.

Entry Requirements

Please see the entry requirements page on the school website.

Content

Paper 1	Introductory topics: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology (OCD, Phobias and Depression).
Paper 2	Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods, Scientific Processes, Data Handling and Statistical Testing.
Paper 3	Issues and Options in Psychology: Issues and Debates, Relationships, Forensic Psychology and Schizophrenia.

Assessment

The AQA specification is followed and is assessed through examination only. There are three papers in total. Each paper lasts two hours and involves multiple choice, short answer questions and extended/ essay writing.

Beyond A Level

Studying Psychology is stimulating and provides a useful foundation for any job, as you will always be dealing with people, whatever career you follow. Psychologists are currently working in areas as diverse as personnel, education, health, social work, prison service, police, marketing, advertising, clinical/psychiatric care.