

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY (AQA)

Psychology is often defined as the scientific study of mind (mental processes) and behaviour. It aims to explain, predict and (where appropriate) change or control behaviour. Psychology does this by applying theoretical explanations, based on research, to real life situations. Through the study of Psychology students learn of the responsibilities we have towards each other as social animals. A level Psychology students must be able to demonstrate social and scientific integrity and understand the sensitive and powerful nature of research conducted.

This course offers the students to understand theoretical models which explain everyday processes, such as the memory, apply theory to solve real world problems, such as considering reasons for abnormal behavior and how this may be treated and look at the role of Psychology in the economy and how money can be saved through processes such as reducing prison violence and improving eye witness testimony. Students consider all this whilst obtaining a secure knowledge of the assumptions underpinning Psychology, the ongoing issues and debates within Psychology and the different approaches that can be taken.

Psychology combines well with the natural sciences, particularly with Biology. It also compliments subjects such as: Geography, English, History, Philosophy & Ethics, Art, Maths, Politics and Business.

You do not have to have GCSE Psychology to study this course but you should have GCSEs in English Language and Maths at grade 5.

The course will appeal to those students who:

- have an interest in what makes people 'tick'
- want to go beyond 'common sense' explanations
- enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- enjoy a scientific approach
- are willing to consider evidence critically
- want to broaden their studies to include a social science
- want to keep their options open for higher education and careers

The course is assessed with three, two hour exams in the summer of Year 13. The A level exam papers are 2 hours each in duration (multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions). Each exam is worth 33.3% of the A level qualification. Research methods are assessed on Paper Two and throughout Papers One and Three.

A Level	Paper One:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Influence (Conformity & obedience)• Cognition (Memory)• Developmental Psychology (Attachment)• Psychopathology (Abnormality)
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- Paper Two:
- Approaches in Psychology
 - Research Methods
 - Biopsychology
- Paper Three:
- Issues and debates within Psychology
 - Gender
 - Stress
 - Aggression

Assessment in A-level Psychology includes a range of question styles that allow students to demonstrate their ability to draw together their skills, knowledge and understanding from across the full course of study. Students are given expected to provide extended responses to demonstrate their ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured.

Some A Level Psychology students choose to study Psychology at University. Universities will receive about 70,000 applications this year from students wanting to study for a degree in Psychology. It is an extremely popular subject and for good reason. We are all interested in people! We spend much of our time thinking and talking about why people behave as they do. This is an opportunity to gain a scientific insight into the human mind and behaviour. After graduating some students embark on careers in Psychology. Opportunities include: Forensic Psychology, Sports Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology and Teaching.

Students are in no way limited to pursuing Psychology degrees, an A Level in Psychology is an excellent starting place for a number of careers and higher education routes. Some A Level Psychology students go on to take further and higher education courses in subjects as diverse as: Law, Philosophy, Sports Studies, Veterinary Science, Medicine, Nursing, Youth and Community Studies and Politics.

Employment opportunities exist in Business, Government, Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Prison Service, and Health.

More information can be found on the AQA website at:

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

alternatively by contacting the Head of Department, Liz Barrett:

liz.barrett@kingsbridgecollege.org.uk or on 01548 852 641 ext. 140.