



## **Psychology A Level**

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**Awarding Body: AQA**

### **What will we study in Psychology?**

As an A Level student you will learn about a plethora of psychological issues, from the wonder in the attachment between a mother and her child to the reasons the atrocities of the Holocaust took place. You will discover how we remember things, how to improve your memory for exams and what it means to have an addictive personality. You will learn why prescribed drugs can help to treat depression and schizophrenia, and how psychological therapies can treat phobias, OCD, and anorexia among others.

Over the two year course, students will cover the key approaches to psychology; from the biological discipline to the humanistic approach, from the outlook of the behaviourists, to the school of cognitive psychological thought. In Year 12 students will study highly relevant and interesting topics such as the various ways in which psychological abnormalities are managed, the ways in which a minority can influence a majority, reasons why people obey authority, and why eye witness testimonies might vary in accuracy.

In Year 13, students will take an in-depth look at the symptoms and treatments of schizophrenia, as well as looking at aggression and questions such as how does evolution explain warfare? Why do some sports fans become obsessive and aggressive? And what sort of aggression can occur in prisons? In addition year 13s will look at the psychological reasons for the development and breakdown of romantic relationships, and the growth of virtual relationships.

During both years of the qualification, students will complete modules in Research Methods, where they will scrutinise psychology as a science, and will even complete some psychological studies of their own. The course will inspire students to seek to understand human behaviour; their own, that of others, and that of society as a whole. Psychology A Level will support further study in a variety of areas, including clinical psychology, medicine, law and teaching. It combines well with all other A Level subjects.

### **Who will teach Psychology?**

Psychology will be taught using up-to-date resources and textbooks written by chief examiners from AQA. We plan to invite various outside speakers to deliver talks, including a medical doctor and a university psychology lecturer. Sixth Form students

will also be encouraged to attend a conference tailored to the AQA exam specification.

## **Examinations**

*Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (Social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology)*

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 33.3% of A Level
- Mix of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

*Paper 2: Psychology in Context (Approaches in psychology, biopsychology, research methods).*

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 33.3% of A Level
- Mix of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

*Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (Issues and debates in psychology, relationships, schizophrenia, and aggression).*

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 33.3% of A Level
- Mix of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.