

Psychology A Level

AQA

Psychology is both an applied and academic field that studies the human mind and behaviour. Research in psychology seeks to understand and explain thought, emotion, and behaviour. Applications of psychology include mental health treatments, performance enhancement, self-help, forensic psychology, and many other areas affecting health and daily life.

Course Structure

There are three Units for A Level Psychology:

Unit 1: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology (Abnormality)

Unit 2: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research methods

Unit 3: Issues and debates in Psychology plus 3 other topics:

From the option modules available, we choose; Cognition & Development, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology

Skills & Knowledge

You will develop excellent critical analysis skills and the ability to deconstruct arguments and comment pertinently on ideas. You will develop a critical way of thinking about psychological studies and research looking at the reliability and validity of its methodology. Essay writing skills will also be developed in constructing an argument for a particular theory.

Assessment

Each unit is assessed through a 2-hour exam. All A-Level exams are taken at the end of year 13. There is no course work/controlled assessment element to this qualification.

Opportunities & Enrichment

Opportunities include taking part in a nationwide Psychology project competition run by the Royal Holloway University. Trips to contemporary psychology exhibitions and museums such as the Freud Museum in London.

Future Careers & Pathways

A Level Psychology is accepted by Universities as an excellent foundation for a wide range of degree courses. It is also an asset in Health and Welfare, Law, Teaching, Marketing, Human Resources, General Management, the Police and Media. Many jobs in the field of Psychology require studying to degree level and specialising in a particular field. These jobs cover a number of areas and can be very rewarding. Examples include: Clinical Psychology, Counselling, Educational Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Sport & Exercise Psychology and many more.