



# Psychology

## What does studying Psychology involve?

Psychology is the scientific study of people: how they think, how they act, react and interact. Psychology is concerned with all aspects of behaviour and the thoughts, feelings and motivations behind it. Psychologists and psychological research have a big impact on all aspects of public life, particularly in areas such as education, health, the economy, industry, the media and government.

Studying psychology will not only provide you with a clearer picture into the science of human behaviour and attempts to explain it, but it will help you to investigate some of the following practical problems:

How has neuroscience changed our understanding of human behaviour?

How can the courts ensure that eyewitness testimony is reliable?

How can we help people overcome eating disorders, depression, stress or phobias?

How can we speed recovery from brain injury?

Why do some people suffer addictions?

Is intelligence innate or acquired through experience?

As you can see, psychologists and psychiatrists have a valuable contribution to make to all areas of life!

## What skills will I develop and where could studying this subject lead?

The psychology course has been designed to provide a broad introduction to the scope and nature of psychology as a science. The emphasis is on applying knowledge and understanding rather than just acquiring knowledge, thereby developing students' transferable skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking. Further to this, psychology students will also develop strong transferable essay writing skills and skills of statistical analysis.

In Year 12, the specification offers a broad range of topics, with research methods in context. In Year 13, there is also a range of topic-based options which bring together explanations from different approaches and engaging students in issues and debates in contemporary psychology.

Currently, there are over 300 psychology courses at degree level. It is an extremely popular and highly competitive subject to study at degree level with graduates being very employable due to the nature and variety of skills acquired at A-Level and University.

Typical psychology graduate careers include: Neuropsychology; Clinical psychology; Educational psychology; Sports psychology; Forensic psychology

Criminal psychology; Health psychology and Occupational psychology.

## Entry requirement / prior knowledge:

Seven 9-5 grades including at least a 5 grade in English Language and Maths, and two 9-5 grades in at least two GCSE Sciences. There is a large amount of research to investigate and become familiar with; therefore a capacity to engage enthusiastically with a large amount of course material is essential.

There is also a key scientific (biology/chemistry) emphasis as well as mathematical and statistical components to the course. Students therefore need to be relatively confident with this. We expect students to read our additional comprehensive reading list and will seek evidence of this through assessment. Students are also expected to make full and active use of Google Classroom and directed websites to aid their progression in the subject.

## Which other subjects does it combine well with?

Mathematics or Statistics, Science, especially Biology or Chemistry

English Language or combined English Literature and Language, Government and Politics, History, Philosophy and Ethics, Media Studies, PE and Sociology.

## Modules that you will cover and assessment details

**Exam board – AQA** [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

### Year 12 Psychology

- Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social influence, Memory, Attachment.
- Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Psychopathology, Research methods.

### Year 13 Psychology

- Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology. 2 hour exam. 33.3% of A-level
- Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research methods 2 hour exam. 33.3% of A-level
- Issues and Options in Psychology: Issues & Debates in Psychology, Aggression, Stress, Relationships. 2 hour exam. 33.3% of A-level.