

Psychology A level



Hertswood

Why take this subject?

Psychology is a fascinating subject and covers a range of different psychological approaches. The topics, theories and issues covered in A Level psychology will provide you with an insight into human and animal behaviour

What do I need to have studied in year 11?

- You must have at least 5 GCSEs at grades 9-5 including English and Maths
- At least a Grade 6 in GCSE Psychology
- Students who have not taken Psychology will be considered depending on their English, Humanities or other Social Science result

What will we study?

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology: This paper will allow students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues in relation to areas in psychology such as social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology. We will examine the behaviours behind obedience to authority, social change, models of memory, why we forget and the effects of failing to form an attachment as well definitions of abnormality and psychological explanations of why people develop mental health disorders such as OCD, depression and phobias.

Psychology in context: This paper will further develop students' knowledge of psychological theory through the understanding of biopsychology and the different approaches in psychology. Here we will examine the research process in psychology further.

Issues and options in Psychology: In the 'Issues and Debates' section of this paper students will examine various debates in psychology and will be required to apply their psychological understanding to these issues. Students will also study the psychology of 'Relationships' and will explore Schizophrenia and the psychology behind its cause as well as psychological treatments and therapies. Finally, they will study Forensic Psychology including reasons for why people commit crime, rehabilitation and offender profiling.

Throughout each paper students will have to have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of research methods and how science works. They are required to know the scientific process behind psychological research including data handling and analysis, The paper also includes a mathematical requirement of which is made up of 10% of the final A Level marks.

How will I be examined?

Unit	Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology	Examination	33.3%
Paper 2: Psychology in context	Examination	33.3%
Issues and options in psychology	Examination	33.3%

What super curricular opportunities will be available to me?

Students will get the opportunity to go to psychology conferences, which will support them in examination skills.

What can this subject lead to?

Jobs within psychology: Child Psychologist, Educational Psychologist, Clinical Psychologist (although a postgraduate degree is needed for these posts), Social worker, teacher, youth worker, counsellor.

Subject Specification

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF>



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