

The Course

The AQA specification consists of three units:

Unit 1: Introductory topics in Psychology such as abnormality and memory

Paper 1 allows you to explore the foundations of human behaviour, for example, considering how memory can be distorted, how attachment shapes our future relationships and how ordinary people can commit heinous crimes when given an order. You will also explore the development and treatment of phobias, OCD and depression, whilst building your understanding of Research Methods - how psychologists design studies and uncover hidden truths about behaviour.



Unit 2: Psychology in context, such as biopsychology and research methods

Paper 2 introduces the major perspectives in Psychology whilst the Biopsychology topic explores how the brain, nervous system, hormones and genes influence our thoughts and actions. Meanwhile, the continued study of Research Methods equips you with the scientific skills to design, analyse and evaluate psychological investigations with confidence.

Unit 3: Topics in Psychology such as schizophrenia, aggression and relationships

Paper 3 tackles some of the more complex issues in society such as the biological and environmental explanations of aggression and schizophrenia. We consider the implications of psychological understanding and what this means for wider society. For example, if aggression is biologically preprogrammed, to what extent is behaviour within our control and to what extent can we hold individuals accountable for their actions? The Issues and Debates topic pulls everything

Why study Psychology?

- Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. It is a demanding academic subject that will rapidly improve your ability to think critically, analyse and utilise research data, and construct effect arguments.
- It is counted as a Science by most universities and an 'academic' A Level, though there are a few exceptions.
- The content is highly relevant to you and your understanding of society.
- It is fascinating and fun.
- Many careers utilise Psychology, from Management Consultancy to Medicine, and it has high employability rates.
- It provides academic input into many other studies, such as History, Biology and English.
- The mapping of the human genome and its interaction with the environment gives extra fuel to many of the

What do I need to study Psychology?

A minimum Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature or Language is required, and a Grade 7 is strongly recommended.

The Psychology A Level involves some extended writing responses but also incorporates a range of MCQ and short-answer questions. Students need to demonstrate accurate knowledge and understanding, apply psychological concepts clearly to novel scenarios, and analyse, evaluate and construct well-structured arguments using evidence, with effective exam technique and clear written communication across different question types.

A Level subject choice video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/RTutms0ol-0>