

Psychology A Level

Course Overview:

Pre-Tertiary Education of the British Psychological Society.

Component 1: Psychology: Past to Present

The purpose of this component is to give a solid grounding in some of the basic core aspects of Psychology. You will be asked to explore contemporary debates using your knowledge and understanding of the five approaches (biological, psychodynamic, behaviourist, cognitive and positive) as well as learn a therapy and a core study for each approach.

Component 2: Psychology: Investigating Behaviour

The purpose of this component is for you to acquire the skills of working scientifically. The central aspect for this component is that of psychological research, from the initial planning stages through to analysing and evaluating. It is designed to introduce you to the methodologies used by psychologists and to gain an appreciation of the impact of choices made on the outcomes of the research.

Psychology: Implications in the Real World

You are expected to apply knowledge and understanding to human / animal behaviours. You should be able to explain and draw conclusions about the possible causes of these behaviours and understand that Psychology has the potential to impact on society as a whole by developing methods of modifying behaviour. You explore five controversies that continue to pose challenges for Psychology. They are: cultural bias, ethical costs of conducting research, non-human animals, scientific status and sexism. You will study three out of six nominated behaviours. We will study: criminal behaviours, schizophrenia and stress.

Assessment:

Paper	Length	% of A Level
Past to Present	2 hr 15	33.3%
Investigating Behaviour	2 hr 15	33.3%
Implications in the Real World	2 hr 15	33.3%

Why would this course suit me?

Psychology can be both fun and fascinating! From learning what goes on in the minds of psychopaths to shocking experiments that expose how far people will go to obey an authority figure, there is always something amazing and even downright astonishing to learn about the human mind and behaviour. Having a basic understanding of Psychology research methods can help you better understand some of the many claims that you will encounter in books, magazines, television shows, and movies and give you the skills to be able to draw your own, informed conclusions. Psychology can help you in your future career, whatever that may be. There are plenty of exciting careers in Psychology that you might want to explore, but studying the subject can help you in many other professions as well.

How does this course link to other subjects?

As Psychology is a STEM+ subject, bridging the Arts / Sciences divide, students come from a variety of other subject backgrounds, from Physics and Biology to History and Drama, and all points in between.

Examination Board:

Eduqas (WJEC)

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in Mathematics, Grade 6 in Science, Grade 5 in English

Potential Career Opportunities:

An A Level in Psychology can be the starting point for a career within a specialist area of Psychology or can feature in a suite of A Levels forming the basis for application to University to study a range of courses from Medicine to Business Studies and a whole variety of subjects in between, including Drama.

In addition to the academic benefits of studying Psychology, students find that the course enhances understanding of the thoughts and behaviours of both themselves and others, as well as helping with revision strategies and time management. It also encourages independent thinking and critical analysis. As a subject, it provides skills that transfer to both study at higher education and employment.

