

A Level Psychology

Why study Psychology at A Level?

If you find yourself fascinated by human behaviour and want to find out more about why people behave the way they do, then psychology is the course for you.

Psychology has a wide range of topic areas and explores questions such as why a virus may cause someone to lose their memory, and what effect computer games may have on children's brains. We live in a rapidly changing society - trying to understand how the human mind copes with this is something that psychology tries to answer.

Psychology is one of the most popular subjects to study at A Level and a flexible choice that sits very well alongside most other subjects including humanities, maths and the sciences. Many universities view psychology as a science.

What will I study?

You will cover topics that will come up in both A Level Biology and English Literature.

Over the two years you will cover the following topics: attachment; memory; social influence and psychopathology.

Other potential topics include forensic psychology and the study of schizophrenia.

Assessment

100% examined.

Paper 1: Multiple-choice questions, short answer and two/ three 16-mark essays.

Paper 2: Multiple-choice questions, short answer and two 16-mark essays.

Paper 3: Multiple-choice questions, short answer and two/ three 16-mark essays.

Study trips, visits and events

You are encouraged to go to guest speaker lectures at Bristol and Bath University.

In the summer you will complete a piece of research on your choice of topic, which is presented to the rest of the class.

You will also go to either the magistrates or crown court to watch a case, and then analyse it using your knowledge of psychology.

Subject entry requirements

5 in Maths, plus 5 in either English Literature or Language

Please note: If you achieve a grade 5 or less in GCSE Maths and take Psychology without selecting another A Level science alongside it, it will be compulsory for you to take Level 3 Core Maths. Whilst Level 3 Core Maths is not compulsory if you achieve a grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths, we highly recommend it.