



PSYCHOLOGY



*What is a mental disorder?
Why are we influenced by others?
How is our brain and behaviour linked?
How do young children learn?*

Level: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA

(www.aqa.org.uk)

A-Level Paper 1	Introductory Topics in Psychology (Social Influence; Memory; Attachment; Psychopathology) <i>2 hr written exam</i>
A-Level Paper 2	Psychology in Context (Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research Methods) <i>2 hr written exam</i>
A-Level Paper 3	Issues and Options in Psychology (Issues and Debates; Cognition and Development; Forensic; Schizophrenia) <i>*Optional topics may be subject to change</i> <i>2 hour written exam</i>

Assessment

During the A level course, students' knowledge will be assessed regularly through discussions and written answers to questions, worksheets and end of unit tests.

Course Aims

This course encourages candidates to:

- Study psychological theories, research, terminology, concepts and research methods.
- Develop skills of critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation.
- Design and report on psychological investigations, including analysing and interpreting data.
- Develop an understanding of ethical issues and the ethical implications of psychological research.
- Understand psychology in different contexts and how it applies in the real world.

Qualities Required

- A good work ethic and an ability to do independent reading and research
- An interest in human behaviour and how it can be investigated

Teaching and Learning Methods

You will experience a variety of class-based activities during the course including:

- Receiving information from the teachers.
 - Using texts, articles or videos to make notes and answer questions.
 - Carrying out small scale investigations.
 - Working on tasks in small groups, researching a topic and presenting the information to the class.
 - There will be regular written work set for homework, generally two lengthy pieces in every four week period.
- In addition you will be set preparation and reading.

Complementary Subjects

Psychology complements a wide range of subjects. There are obvious links to Philosophy and Ethics and Sociology. It also works quite well with Biology, and with other courses that develop analytical skills in written work like English Literature. It is useful in careers such as Medicine, Law, Politics, Science, Business, Counselling and Education.