



# Psychology

## So, what exactly is Psychology?

Psychology is a fascinating subject with a wide range of real-world applications. Essentially it is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. Psychologists employ scientific methods in order to: identify what behaviour is occurring, work out why it is occurring, predict what future behaviour will be and, if necessary, work out ways of changing that future behaviour.



## What will I learn on this course?

The advanced GCE is made up of 3 mandatory units with the third unit being composed of a selection from a number of optional topics. All units are externally assessed.

*The aims of the specification are to:*

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of psychology and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for Psychology, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the discipline
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

## Entry Requirements for A Level Psychology

48 % of the marks in A level psychology are dedicated to extended writing essay style questions. 10% of the marks come from mathematics and almost 20% of the marks come from questions relating to how psychological research is conducted and interpreted. For this reason, it is highly recommended that students taking this subject at A level have at least grade 5 in their English, Maths and Science GCSE's.

Examination Board: AQA  
Qualification: A Level

## A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

### Unit 1: introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

*Written paper 2 hours, 33.3% A level*

### Unit 2: Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

*Written paper 2 hours, 33.3% A level*

### Unit 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

- Issues and debates in psychology
- *Option 1:* Relationships, **or** gender, **or** cognition and development.
- *Option 2:* schizophrenia, **or** eating behaviour, **or** stress.
- *Option 3:* aggression, **or** forensic psychology, **or** addiction.

*Written paper 2 hours, 33.3% A level*

## What can you with your qualification?

A level psychology is usually accepted as a science subject. in addition to developing skills in scientific research psychology students also develop skills in considering phenomena from different perspectives usually associated with social sciences and humanities. For this reason, it provides a sound base for students wishing to progress to higher education, but also for students who want to continue their learning in a more applied way. Psychology is widely applicable in many aspects of modern life and can be applied in a variety of personal and professional situations.

**For further information or advice please contact**

**Mrs Fitton:**

[lfitton@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:lfitton@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk)