



A Level Psychology

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is a fascinating subject that helps students understand human behaviour, mental processes and real-world applications of psychology. Here are some key reasons why it is a great choice:

1. Engaging and Relevant Content

- Covers a variety of interesting topics
- Helps students understand how psychological theories apply to everyday life including mental health and decision-making.

2. Development of Critical Skills












- Encourages critical thinking, problem-solving and analytical skills.
- Involves evaluating research studies, which strengthens logical reasoning and argumentation.
- Develops statistical and scientific skills through research methods.

3. Scientific and Evidence-Based Approach

- Psychology is recognised as a science, combining elements of biology, sociology and philosophy.
- Teaches students how to design and evaluate experiments, making it valuable for scientific research.

What will you learn?

AQA A-Level Psychology explores how people think, feel, and behave. You'll study key topics such as:

Year 12	Year 13
<p> Research Methods: learn how psychologists design studies, collect data, and analyse results.</p> <p> Approaches in Psychology: explore different perspectives, such as the biological, cognitive, and behavioural approaches, to understand human behaviour.</p> <p> Social Influence: investigate why people conform, obey authority and resist social pressure.</p> <p> Memory: discover how we remember and forget, including models of memory and factors affecting eyewitness testimony.</p> <p> Attachment: study the bonds between infants and caregivers, theories of attachment and the impact of early relationships on later life.</p> <p> Biopsychology: understand how the brain, nervous system and hormones influence behaviour, including the fight-or-flight.</p> <p> Clinical Psychology & Mental Health: learn about mental disorders such as depression and OCD, their causes and treatments.</p>	<p> Forensic Psychology: examine criminal behaviour, offender profiling and explanations for crime.</p> <p> Gender: explore the psychology of gender development, including biological and social influences on gender identity.</p> <p> Schizophrenia: learn about symptoms, explanations and treatments for schizophrenia.</p> <p> Issues & Debates: consider key discussions in psychology, such as nature vs. nurture, free will vs. determinism and ethical issues in research.</p>

How is the exam structured?






AQA A-Level Psychology has three exam papers, each lasting **2 hours**:

- **Paper 1:** Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, and Psychopathology (Mental Health)
- **Paper 2:** Approaches, Biopsychology, and Research Methods
- **Paper 3:** Issues & Debates and optional topics (e.g., Forensics, Gender, Schizophrenia)

Each paper includes multiple-choice, short-answer and essay questions.

Future Prospects:

Studying psychology can lead to careers in:

-  **Clinical Psychology:** helping people with mental health disorders.
-  **Forensic Psychology:** working in criminal justice.
-  **Educational Psychology:** supporting students in schools.
-  **Research & Neuroscience:** investigating the brain and behaviour.
-  **Business & Marketing:** understanding consumer behaviour.

Psychology is also a great subject for careers in **medicine, law, social work, human resources, and counselling.**