



AQA A level Psychology

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- ▶ Psychology is the **SCIENCE** of mind and behaviour
- ▶ In Psychology we try to answer questions such as:
 - ▶ Why might eyewitness testimonies be inaccurate?
 - ▶ How can we try to reduce stress?
 - ▶ Why do we conform to rules and authority?
 - ▶ What causes depression and how should it be treated?
 - ▶ Which research method is best to use to investigate any given behaviour?



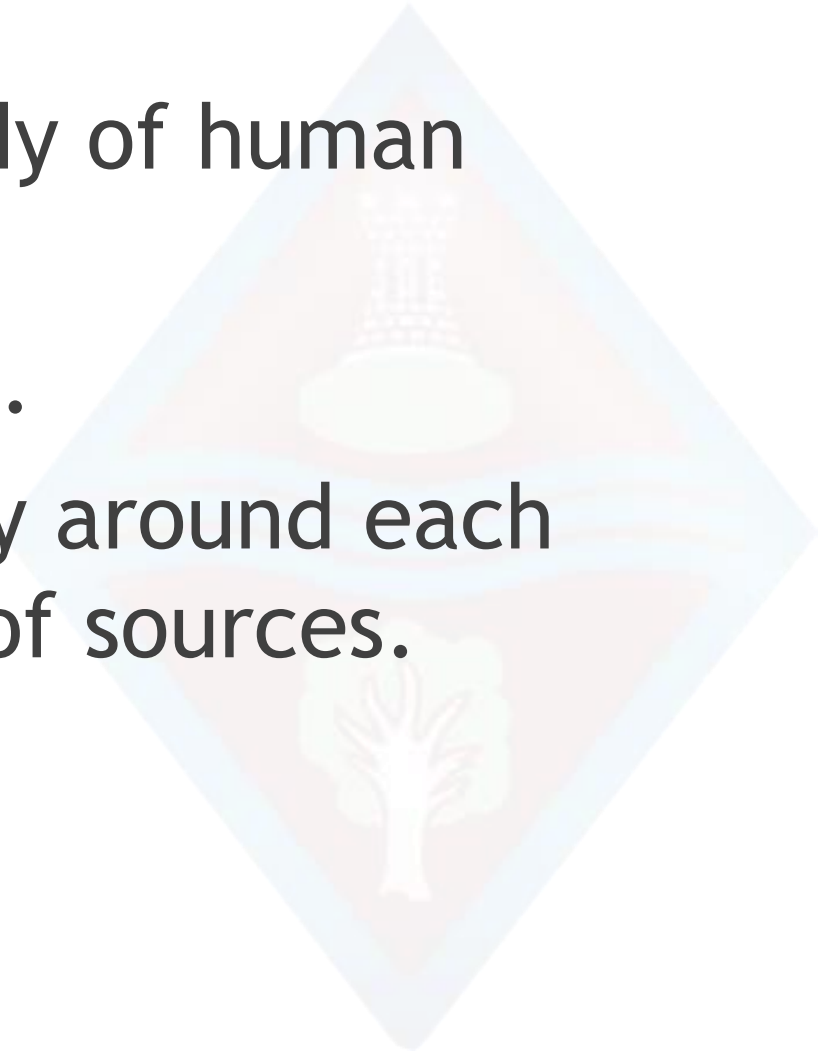
The aim is to go beyond the popular approach to psychology, taking a more academic route towards an understanding of the various theoretical perspectives and the different methods of studying behaviour. These methods include:

- **Statistical Analysis**
- **Designing an experiment/study**
- **Understanding ethical considerations**
- **Analysis of the reliability and validity of research findings**



Is this course suitable for me?

- ▶ Yes, if you are interested in the study of human behaviour.
- ▶ You have good critical thinking skills.
- ▶ You must be prepared to read widely around each topic independently from a variety of sources.
- ▶ Essay based.





Is this course suitable for me?

- ▶ There is a substantial statistics component in both Year 12 and Year 13 - students need to be confident with maths.
- ▶ 10% of the questions across the papers will involve mathematical skills.
- ▶ The mathematics and scientific element of Psychology has now been brought in line with Chemistry, Physics and Biology.
- ▶ Your GCSE grade in Maths, Science (Biology) and English Language is important.



Assessment

- ▶ Exam board: AQA
- ▶ 100% linear course
- ▶ No coursework/100% exam
- ▶ Mock paper taken at the end of Year 12
- ▶ 3 papers at the end of Year 13
- ▶ Length of A Level papers: 2 hours
- ▶ Questions are a mix of MCQ + SAQ + Essays

A LEVEL	ASSESSMENT	% OF COURSE
Paper 1 – Introductory Topics in Psychology	2 hour exam	33.3%
Paper 2 – Psychology in Context	2 hour exam	33.3%
Paper 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology	2 hour exam	33.3%



MODULES STUDIED

YEAR 12

- ▶ Approaches to explaining behaviour and Biopsychology
 - ▶ Is behaviour determined by nature or nurture?
- ▶ Psychopathology
 - ▶ Depression, Phobias, OCD
- ▶ Research Methods and Statistics
 - ▶ How do Psychologists go about studying the mind and behaviour?
- ▶ Memory
 - ▶ Why do we forget?
- ▶ Attachment
 - ▶ What happens when a child is deprived of emotional care?
- ▶ Social Psychology
 - ▶ Why do we obey?

YEAR 13

- ▶ Research Methods and Statistics
 - ▶ Issues & Debates
 - ▶ 3 topics:
 - ▶ Schizophrenia
 - ▶ Forensic
 - ▶ Gender
- Other topics are available on the AQA scheme: addiction, stress, relationships etc.



Nationally, Psychology is one of the most popular degree choices, and the second most popular subject to study at A level behind Mathematics.

Many are choosing Psychology to explore careers involving mental health given the prevalence of these issues in society today.

Table 9. Percentage change in A level entries in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

Subject grouping	Entries in Summer 2023	Entries in Summer 2024	Percentage change in entries
Mathematics	90,845	101,230	11.4%
Psychology	78,015	76,130	-2.4%
Biology	68,870	69,045	0.3%
Chemistry	57,620	58,850	2.1%
History	44,545	43,410	-2.6%
Sociology	45,730	42,575	-6.9%
Business studies	41,265	41,265	-0.0%
Art and design subjects	40,930	40,965	0.1%
Physics	35,815	40,320	12.6%



Psychology has applications across many subject domains making it a versatile choice at A level:

- Sports Psychologist
- Marketing and Business
- Therapy
- Medicine
- The Legal Profession
- Forensics
- Neuroscience
- Academia
- Criminology
- Education





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