



# AQA A level Psychology

Miss Colgan  
Head of Psychology

Contact: [jcolgan@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:jcolgan@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk)





Psychology is the **SCIENCE** of mind and behaviour.

Key transferable skill: understanding people!

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?



## Other skills you will develop:

- Statistical Analysis
- Designing an experiment/study
- Understanding ethical considerations
- Analysis of the reliability and validity of research findings
- Critical evaluation and essay writing

**Blends science and humanities - looks great on UCAS!**



## 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.
- Your GCSE grade in Maths, Science (Biology) and English Language is important.
- You will also be required to write essays and critically evaluate theories. You must be prepared to complete wider reading.



# 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? Why do we remember things that did not happen?

### **Attachment**

What happens when a child is deprived of emotional care?

### **Social Psychology**

Why do we obey? How can social influence be used to persuade?



## YEAR 13

- Research Methods and Statistics
- Issues & Debates
- 3 topics:
  - Schizophrenia
  - Forensics
  - 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 2025 compared with summer 2024**

| Subject grouping | Entries in summer 2024 | Entries in summer 2025 | Percentage change in entries |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mathematics      | 101,230                | 105,755                | 4.5%                         |
| Psychology       | 76,125                 | 73,565                 | -3.4%                        |
| Biology          | 69,040                 | 66,100                 | -4.3%                        |
| Chemistry        | 58,845                 | 59,850                 | 1.7%                         |
| Sociology        | 42,570                 | 42,035                 | -1.3%                        |
| Physics          | 40,315                 | 42,025                 | 4.2%                         |
| Business studies | 41,260                 | 41,940                 | 1.6%                         |
| Economics        | 39,660                 | 41,880                 | 5.6%                         |
| History          | 43,405                 | 40,940                 | -5.7%                        |





# MODULES STUDIED

**Psychology has applications across many subject domains making it a versatile choice at A-Level:**

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





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