

The Psychology curriculum

Psychology curriculum vision

The KS5 curriculum offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking, and research. The curriculum provides a coherent and holistic programme of study and appeals to a cross-section of students, regardless of whether they have studied the subject before. It builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities and enables progression into a wide range of other subjects. Psychology is one of the science group of subjects and has the same assessment objectives as the other A-level sciences. The exams will measure how well students have achieved them. The A-level course includes a wide range of mathematical skills, a detailed exploration of biological ideas, a comprehensive and critical study of the different approaches in Psychology and a wide range of contemporary implications and applications of psychological theory and research. The significance of the scientific method to Psychology is critically considered and practical experience of a range of research methods is expected.

A Level Psychology encourages students to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject 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 the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

In order to be able to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in Psychology, students need to have been taught, and to have acquired competence in, the appropriate areas of mathematics. Overall, at least 10% of the marks in assessments for Psychology will require the use of mathematical skills. These skills will be applied in the context of A-level Psychology and will be at least the standard of higher tier GCSE mathematics. 25-30% of the overall assessment will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to research methods.

Students of psychology must use subject-specific vocabulary effectively. Students will perform better in the final exams with the appropriate use of this kind of vocabulary. Each topic in psychology has words and titles which are not used in other areas of life. Our students will need to master the use of such terms in at least three ways: understand what they mean, when they are used, recognise situations to which they apply, e.g. in scenarios in questions and be able to use them confidently in writing their own answers. As a result, students will be required to revise for and complete regular low-stakes testing. The teaching of this vocabulary will require the implementation of the strategies outlined in the Communication Skills Policy.

Key stage 5 – Units of study AQA A level Psychology, 7182

<i>Term</i>	<i>Year 12</i>	<i>Year 13</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Introduction to Psychology Approaches to Psychology Research Methods</i>	<i>Biopsychology Relationships</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Social Influence Research Methods</i>	<i>Revision Schizophrenia</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Attachment Research Methods</i>	<i>Aggression Revision</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Memory Practical Investigation</i>	<i>Revision Revision</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Psychopathology Revision</i>	<i>Revision Revision</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>Revision Issues and Debates</i>	

The following links will support additional learning for your child.

Year 12 Units	Additional Learning
Introduction to Psychology	https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/introduction-to-aqa-a-level-psychology Free online course provided by Tutor2u.
Approaches to Psychology	https://studentlife.lincoln.ac.uk/2021/05/10/brief-explanation-of-main-approaches-used-in-psychology/ A brief overview of the approaches to psychology.
Research Methods	https://shorturl.at/gpvy2 Top 10 research methods used by psychologists, linked to potential careers.
Social Influence	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQQMuyZSwq4 Revision webinar and essay writing advice.
Attachment	https://www.britannica.com/science/attachment-theory/Individual-difference-features-of-attachment-theory Explore the theory of attachment in greater depth.
Memory	https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/psychology-revision/a-level-aqa/memory/ A collection of resources and revision materials for the topic of memory.
Psychopathology	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVsEcpHkukk A 20 minute revision overview video.
Issues and Debates	https://rb.gy/332nd A revision blast video all about issues and debates in psychology by Tutor2u.
Biopsychology	https://studyrocket.co.uk/revision/a-level-psychology-aqa/issues-options-in-psychology/biopsychology A content overview of the whole topic of biopsychology.
Relationships	https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/basics/relationships Relationships today – a psychological overview with links to further concepts.
Schizophrenia	https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/schizophrenia/overview/ A UK overview of schizophrenia. https://rb.gy/a8x0s A US overview of schizophrenia.
Aggression	https://opentextbc.ca/socialpsychology/part/aggression/ Work your way through the open textbook about aggression (move to the next section at the bottom of the webpage).