



PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

A Level Psychology includes some of the most popular and controversial psychology topics of study. The area of social influence in the first year of study gives students the opportunity to investigate and replicate some of the most interesting topics in psychology. There are also opportunities to study mental illnesses and abnormal behaviour including OCD, depression schizophrenia and phobias. As the A Level course involves science and maths elements, students are expected to plan, carry out, present and analyse data from their own investigations, which makes the new A Level course more in line with university study and psychology in the real world. There is also the opportunity in Year 13 to study forensic psychology which includes investigating serial killers and the profiling techniques used to catch them.

"I hope to go to university to study Law. I have studied Psychology, Classical Civilisation and History at A Level." Catherine



or hear other psychologists' views on specific research. The teacher also does a very good job of getting students actively involved, for example through interactive whiteboard games to test our knowledge. *Victoria*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a new linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13. AS Levels will still exist and can be taken as a stand-alone qualification at the end of Year 12, but students taking this option and then continuing to study the subject in Year 13 would have to sit all the A Level units as linear exams to gain that qualification.

As part of our course there are rigorous assessments tracking progress throughout the two year course that are designed to prepare all of our students for the challenges of three two hour exams at the end of the two year course.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Due to the various high level skills acquired through studying psychology, there are many career paths open to psychology graduates; teacher training, health professionals, counselling and therapy, working with the police, working with SEN children and much more.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

The course involves significant science and maths elements. B grades in these subjects at GCSE are preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Psychotron](#)
- [St Barts Psychology](#)
- [Psychology4A](#)
- [Salmon](#)

WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is a great subject to study as it enables you to develop a unique understanding about yourselves as well as others. The course explores aspects of human behaviour that will help your learning and memory performance in daily life, while also developing an understanding of the causes of psychological disorders. As well as this, Psychology also teaches you about various research methods and an analytical way of thinking which you can apply in a range of contexts, making it an excellent subject for a range of careers. *Victoria*

Studying Psychology at A Level has inspired me to go on to study law as it has helped me to understand why people do certain things and ethical reasons behind various actions. It's not only this evident psychological basis that's encouraged me to study a subject like Law. The analytical skills involved in writing essays and selecting various research to back up knowledge will also stand me in good stead for future study. *Victoria*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Lessons are taught in a variety of ways, through teacher led presentations on the specific topic we are learning about or sometimes student led presentations as well. Videos are also used frequently to help understand various experiments