

PSYCHOLOGY GCSE

What is Psychology?



Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. It is concerned with trying to understand and explain how people feel, think and act. In order to do this it considers research conducted by psychologists on people and animals.

What will you study?

The course covers the five main topics in psychology:

- **Biological Psychology** – the affect our biological processes (e.g. hormones, brain, genetics) has on our behaviour.
- **Cognitive Psychology** – how we perceive the world around us and the affect it has on our memories and thoughts.
- **Developmental Psychology** – how we learn, think and develop from children to adults.
- **Social Psychology** – how the people around us influence our behaviour e.g. why do we obey authority?
- **Individual Differences** – the symptoms and treatments of mental illness and abnormal behaviour.

In addition to the above topics, you will learn about the various methods, such as experiments, observations and surveys that psychologists use to conduct research and investigate behaviour. You will also get the chance to conduct your own experiments and research.

Is Psychology for me?

Psychology suits people who are interested in the world around them and who are keen to find out why people act in the way that they do. To study psychology at GCSE level you should have a good level of literacy and numeracy as you will be required to discuss and analyse the findings of psychological studies.

Assessment

The course is assessed solely through external examinations. You will sit one unit at the end of Year 10 and the remainder will be at the end of Year 11. As the exams are not tiered, the whole range of GCSE grades from A* to G are available. There is no coursework requirement for the course.

GCSE Psychology can lead onto the AS/A2 Psychology course which has been very popular and successful in the sixth form.

