

# Psychology

**Qualification:** A-Level Psychology  
**Additional Entry Information:** GCSE English Language grade C  
plus  
GCSE Biology grade B  
Or  
GCSE Double Award Science grade BB  
Speak to **Mrs R Browning** for more information.

## What do students need to know or be able to do before taking the course?

The course requires no prior knowledge, although a keen interest in the subject is desirable and it would be worthwhile students researching the subject before opting for it, in order to obtain a clearer picture of what to expect.

## What will students learn on this course (skills and course content)?

In year 12 you will learn about the 5 key approaches in Psychology (cognitive, behavioural, biological, psychodynamic and positive) and a relevant debate to go with each. You will also gain a broad knowledge of research methods and how psychological research is conducted. In year 13 we look at specific behaviours (criminal behaviour, stress and schizophrenia) in detail, exploring how they can be explained from multiple perspectives, and how the behaviour can be modified. You will also look at key controversies in psychology such as cultural bias, sexism and the use of non-human animals for research. Research methods also features during the A2 part of the course but more in the form of application, with the requirement of you completing two independent investigations.

## What sort of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students who have a keen interest in explaining both normal and abnormal behaviours. Students need to be motivated to extend their reading around the subject to gain greater insight. Students will be required to do extended writing, so a preference and an aptitude for this skill is key.

## What kind of work will students need to be able to do outside of lessons?

There is constantly new research being published which can be obtained online or via subscription to The Psychology Review magazine. The subject invokes interesting discussions and a knowledge of the topics will allow these to be more interesting and relevant and will allow you to be able to take part in such discussions/debates.

## What is the course content and how is this assessed?

AS Unit 1 – Psychology past to present – 1hr 30min exam – 50% of AS, 20% of A level  
AS Unit 2 – using psychological concepts – 1hr 30 min exam – 50% of AS, 20% of A level  
A2 Unit 3 – Implications in the real world – 2hr 30min exam – 40% of A level  
A2 Unit 4 – Applied research methods – 1hr 30min exam – 20% of A level



## **What could students go on to do at the end of this course?**

This course is applicable for a number of fields such as teaching, nursing, caring profession and much more. Specifically the course is suitable for Psychology degrees which can lead to a number of career paths in many sectors such as; clinical, educational, forensic, criminal etc.

