

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour.

Psychologists observe and conduct experiments to find out more about the way people act and interact. They try to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us and use this understanding to help us tackle personal and social problems.



What subjects go with Psychology?

Psychology is one of the most popular subject choices at A-level.

It gives you experience of **scientific theory, maths & research skills, history** and **essay writing**, so it can compliment a range of subjects.

Careers from Psychology

Psychology is useful for any job that requires lots of interaction or an understanding of human behaviour and development.

People with skills in psychology are sought after in business, management, teaching, research, social work and careers in medicine and healthcare.

If you are interested in studying the subject at degree and post-graduate level in order to become a psychologist, you can work in a huge range of areas including:

- **Sports** – helping athletes to build mental strategies to improve their performance and handle pressure.
- **Education** – studying child development and helping children experiencing difficulties with their education.
- **Clinical and counselling** – treating people with mental health needs.
- **Forensic** - assessing and treating criminal behaviour, which can involve working with offenders and victims of crime.
- **Occupational** – aiming to increase the effectiveness of an organisation and improve job satisfaction.
- **Neuropsychology** – studying how the physical function of the brain affects the way we behave and helping to treat people suffering from brain injuries.

Exam 1: Core Studies

Social

- *How people interact with each other and influence behaviour*
- Obedience, disobedience, helping behaviour

Cognitive

- *Mental processing of information*
- Eyewitness testimony, memory, auditory and visual attention

Developmental

- *How people change and develop across their lifespan*
- Transmission aggression, role modelling, moral development and lying and truth telling

Biological

- *How genes, the nervous system and hormones influence our behaviour, emotions and cognition*
- Functions of each hemisphere, how visual experience alters the brain, differences of taxi drivers brains

Individual Differences

- *Focused on the differences between individuals rather*
- *Personality, IQ testing, Autism and Theory of Mind, psychopaths*

Exam 2: Research Methods

**Design and carry out a range of studies
like...**

- Does chewing gum improve concentration?
- Is there a correlation between attraction and trustworthiness?
- Can I write a questionnaire to find differences in attitude to school across different ages?
- Can I use an observation to gather quantitative data on students behaviour in the common room?

Exam 3: Applied Psychology

Mental Health

- How have the mentally ill been treated through history? What does this tell us?
- How heritable are mental disorders?
- How does the brain change in schizophrenia?
- How can we explain mental disorders?

Exam 3: Applied Psychology

Criminal Psychology

- How can we be unbiased in processing evidence?
- How do we interview suspects?
- What makes a criminal?
- Can we use drugs to 'cure' criminals?
- What do prisons do criminals?
- What's the best way to reduce reoffending?

Exam 3: Applied Psychology

Child Psychology

- What do babies see?
- How do parents and children develop an attachment?
- What is intelligence? How does it change through life?
- How are children's brains different to yours?
- What impact does advertising have on developing gender roles in small children?

Structure of the course and exams

Year 12:

Research methods

10 Core Studies

Y13:

10 (more) Core Studies

Applied Psychology

Exams

Research methods 30%

Themes through core studies 35%

Applied Psychology 35%