

PSYCHOLOGY Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Psychology

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grade 5 or above in GCSE Psychology (if studied) **or** Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language. You must also achieve Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics **and** Grade 5 or above in GCSE Science or GCSE Biology

Overview

Advanced Level Psychology involves you learning to develop an analytical and critical approach to the study of the human mind and behaviour, leading to a sound understanding of the multiple applications of Psychology in the wider society. You will consider biological make-up, learned experiences, cognitive (thought) processes and past experiences. You will learn to analyse theories by evaluating the studies that support them, and you will be taught the skills required to draw out the strengths, weaknesses and the psychological issues and debates with each. You will also learn how to examine and analyse the methodologies which underpin psychological theories; for example, questionnaires, laboratory experiments and case studies. The course is 100% examination based, with three examination papers to be taken at the end of the course.

What will I learn?

You will be assessed via three written examinations of two hours each, all taken at the end of the course. Each paper will include multiple-choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing. Learning is focussed around three main assessment objectives which are emphasised and embedded throughout the taught duration of the course.

- ▲ **Paper 1 Introductory topics in Psychology:** you will study social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology.
- ▲ **Paper 2 Psychology in Context:** you will study the approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods.
- ▲ **Paper 3 Issues and Options in Psychology:** you will study issues and debates in Psychology plus three additional topics selected from: relationships – gender – cognition and development – schizophrenia – eating behaviour – stress – aggression – forensic psychology – addiction.

How will I learn?

Through learning about human behaviour, you will develop strong communication, leadership and team-working skills. Lessons are designed to promote higher-level and analytical thinking through a variety of learning styles, including collecting and working with data. To be most successful, you will be expected to read around the topics covered in lessons, looking at additional research examples to broaden your evaluative viewpoint on psychological research and applications in society.

Where could it lead?

Advanced Level Psychology offers the opportunity for students to develop approaches to critical thinking and analysis of human behaviour through use of evaluative writing, research, applied statistics and data analysis. It is, therefore, considered an asset to all areas of Higher Education, including business and management, teaching, research, social work, medicine and healthcare. Furthermore, students who wish to become psychologists could work in a range of roles such as education, counselling and therapy, sport and the prison service.