

Choosing AS and A level Psychology





Why study Psychology?

“Psychology is a science and looks at how the brain works and what drives our behaviour.”

“Studying psychology in the sixth form or at college stretches your mind and forces you to think laterally about a range of interesting and topical problems.”

“Studying psychology in the sixth form/college will not only ensure you stay up-to-date with current issues and also develop the facilities to critically analyse a range of issues.”

(A level Psychology Student views)



Is Psychology for me?

Yes, if you enjoy:

- trying to understand how people think
- looking at why people behave the way they do
- using and interpreting data to analyse psychological issues
- discussing alternative courses of action
- keeping up to date with current psychological issues in the media such as gender, mental health issues etc.



Do I need GCSE Psychology?

- You don't need to have studied Psychology at GCSE to do A level Psychology – you will be introduced to all the core content
- If you studied GCSE Psychology and enjoyed it, you are likely to enjoy the A level too
- Psychology does involve working with numbers so you will need a good grade in GCSE Maths



What will I learn in year one?

In Year One you will learn about:

- Social psychology
- Cognitive psychology
- Biological psychology
- Learning theories



What will I learn in year two?

In Year Two you will learn about:

- Clinical psychology (everyone studies this)

....and **one** from the following three topic areas:

- Criminological psychology
- Child psychology
- Health psychology



How will I be assessed for A Level?

For A level you will sit three exams at the end of your course:

- Paper 1 contains social, cognitive, biological and learning theories. (2 hours)
- Paper 2 contains clinical and one from criminological, child and health psychology. (2 hours)
- Paper 3 contains methodology, review of studies and issues and debates in psychology (2 hours)



How will I be assessed for AS?

For **AS** you will sit two exams at the end of your course:

- Paper 1 social and cognitive psychology (1.5 hours)
- Paper 2 biological and learning theories (1.5 hours)

* The AS Psychology is a stand alone qualification and does **NOT** contribute to the A level Psychology qualification.



What can I do next?

Psychology prepares you for progression to further study or the world of work:

- You will have developed data handling and writing skills which are transferable to both university and employment
- You might want to study a degree in psychology or a psychology related qualification
- You might progress to a career working with people such as journalism, marketing, health related work etc



How do I find out more?

You can find out more about studying Psychology by:

- Visiting the Edexcel website to find out more about AS and A level Psychology
- Search online for psychology courses at university to find out more about where an A level in Psychology can take you
- Talk to other students who are currently studying the course or have completed a course in psychology
- Speak to your Head of Psychology who will advise you what to do next

Good luck!

