

## Next steps!

You can find out more about the GCSE in Psychology by:

- visiting the Edexcel website at [www.edexcel.com/gcse2009](http://www.edexcel.com/gcse2009)
- accessing the BBC Bitesize website at [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize)
- talking to the Head of Science at your school who will be able to describe the course in detail and advise you of what you need to do next when it comes to you your options.

### Psychology Question:

'Pantophobia' is?

### Psychology Answer:

(c) Fear of everything

# Edexcel GCSE Psychology



## STUDENT GUIDE

### Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy:

- understanding why people behave the way they do
- developing your ability to think scientifically
- learning about the treatments and therapies used to help people
- finding out what psychologists do

then the GCSE Psychology course is the subject for you.

#### Edexcel

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#### About Edexcel

Edexcel is a Pearson company and the UK's largest awarding body. We offer academic and vocational qualifications and testing to schools, colleges, employers and other places of learning here and in over 85 countries worldwide.

## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

The good news is that this will be a new subject for you so you will not have to have any prior knowledge of psychology.

Psychology is the study of mind and behaviour and, through your own experiences, you will already have an understanding of how individuals and groups function.

## What will I learn?

You will be looking at answers to the following five topics:

1. How do we see our world?
2. Is dreaming meaningful?
3. Do TV and video games affect young people's behaviour?
4. Why do we have phobias?
5. Are criminals born or made?

Within these five topics you will look at:

- how illusions work, how we see things and whether aggression and antisocial behaviour comes from our biology (for example genes and hormones) or our upbringing
- the work of forensic, clinical and educational psychologists, as well as psychoanalysts
- issues such as how reliable eyewitness testimony is and how someone's race or accent can affect how they are judged by a jury
- the methods used in psychology, as well as ethics and wider issues such as nature-nurture.

## How will I be assessed?

Examination	Case Studies
There are two exams which include some multiple-choice questions, some short-answer questions and some extended writing.	There will be case studies with questions and you need to give answers about what happened in the study and the possible problems with it.  You will be asked to use your understanding of psychology, such as commenting on a dream or comparing two different explanations of aggression.

## What can I do after I've completed the course?

You can go on to study A Level Psychology. The skills you learn, such as how to evaluate, how to see problems in data gathering and how to interpret graphs and data, will be very useful in further study.

You can go on to a health and social care course which includes psychology. You can use these skills, and some of the material, in other subjects such as English literature (for example, looking at Virginia Woolf or Shakespeare's Hamlet) and sociology (for example, considering the role of self-fulfilling prophecy).

Business studies and media studies also involve psychology, as does biology.

You will find psychology useful in many areas of work, such as selling, marketing, training and coaching.

### Psychology Question:

'Pantophobia' is?

- (a) Fear of pantomimes
- (b) When you're not afraid of anything
- (c) Fear of everything
- (d) Fear of being underground

