

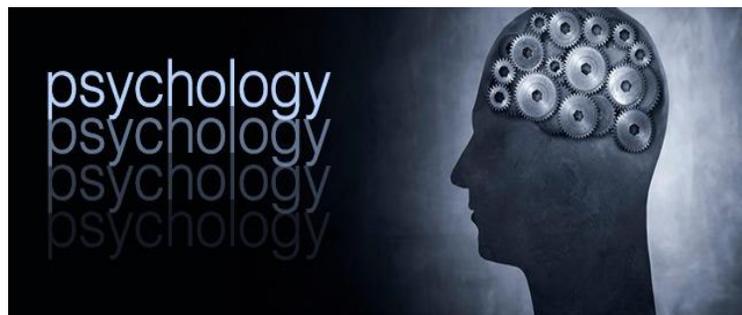
# Psychology

## A Level

**Head of Department:**

Sarah Webb

**Exam Board:** AQA



### What is the course about?

Psychology is the study of human behaviour. As you can imagine this is a very wide and dynamic subject, covering human behaviour in a broad range of areas.

You will learn how psychologists from different perspectives attempt to explain our complex behaviour and consider whether Psychology can truly be considered a Science. As well as theoretical lessons, you will also have the opportunity to carry out some minor research experiments for yourself to test a number of theories and models that we cover. You will study and evaluate work from psychologists old and new and look at major themes and debates within the subject such as ethics and the nature/nurture debate.

### What will I study in the first year?

In Year 1 you will study how individual behaviour can be affected by social influence; how the human memory works; an introduction to psychopathology as well as early childhood attachments. You will also start to examine the different approaches in psychology as well as a review of the methods used for psychological research.

### What will I study in the second year?

In the second year, you will extend your knowledge and understanding of research methods to include statistical analysis. You will re-examine the key psychological approaches, with a key focus on issues and debates in psychology. You will study biopsychology looking at how the brain works and how our nervous system is linked to our feelings and behaviour. You will also cover three applied areas in psychology: gender, addiction and eating .

### How is the course assessed?

A Level Psychology is 100% examination-based. It comprises 3 examination papers, 2 hours each and of equal weighting.

### What skills will I develop in this course?

By the end of the course Psychology students will have developed an impressive array of transferable skills including critical analysis, the ability to construct and perform independent research, the ability to select evidence to produce reasoned and balanced arguments as well as a sound understanding of the core approaches and debates at the root of Psychology.

### What does this subject offer for higher education and future careers?

Psychology is a very popular choice for university application and is very competitive in terms of entrance. Psychology gives students a large range of transferable skills which are useful in a vast range of career areas including Business, Education, Healthcare, Law and Medicine.