

## Psychology

The psychology department follows the AQA psychology course. The specification is designed to encourage students to engage with the subject by introducing new, contemporary topics, as well as allowing candidates to demonstrate the ability to utilise scientific methodology in the context of psychology and to develop their critical thinking skills.

Assessment is linear, and for the A-level course students are required to take three examinations at the end of the two-year course. The examinations involve a mixture of multiple choice, short answers and extended writing. In addition to testing psychological knowledge, understanding and application, 25-30% of the assessment focuses on research methods and 10% on mathematical skills. Therefore, students taking this subject should be confident in English, science and maths. There is no coursework in psychology, however students will have the opportunity to carry out small research projects.

### A-level course content:

#### **Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology**

Social influences; memory; attachment; psychopathology.

#### **Paper 2: Psychology in Context**

Approaches in psychology; biopsychology; research methods.

#### **Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology**

Issues and debates; cognition and development; schizophrenia; forensic psychology.

Each paper is a written examination of two hours, worth 96 marks and makes up 33.3% of the total A level.

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