

Psychology

A Level (AQA)

Psychology gives a strong academic basis for a huge number of university courses. It can lead to careers in sports psychology, forensic psychology, clinical psychology, law, politics, marketing, counselling and education. It is a valuable subject for those planning to study Psychology at university or pursue a career working with people.

Entry Requirements

- **Minimum Standard:** Five or more grades at 4+ in GCSE or equivalent, including English and Maths.
- **Additional Criteria:** Minimum standard with a 5+ in English, Maths and Science.

What will you learn?

A Level Psychology with AQA consists of three components:

- Component 1: Introductory topics in Psychology, including Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.
- Component 2: Psychology in Context, including Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods.
- Component 3: Issues and Options in Psychology, including Issues and Debates, Gender, Schizophrenia and Aggression.

How will you learn?

You will learn through a mix of core theory memorization, scientific research methods, data analysis, and critical evaluation, all assessed via three final linear written exams.

- Knowledge acquisition: Study essential human behaviors, cognitive processes, and biological systems through textbooks, digital resources, and classroom lessons.
- Application tasks: Practice applying abstract psychological theories to real-life scenarios and case study data stems.
- Critical evaluation (AO3): Learn to weigh the strengths and weaknesses of theories using evaluation frameworks like GRAVE (Generalisability, Reliability, Application, Validity, Ethics).
- Data and math practice: Build GCSE-level math competence to interpret graphs, calculate statistics, and design experiments.
- Essay drilling: Master writing extended responses and 16-mark essays under timed exam conditions.

How will you be assessed?

33.3%

Paper 1 – 33.3% Introductory Topics.
Written exam.

33.3%

Paper 2 – 33.3% Psychology in context.
Written exam.

33.3%

Paper 3 – 33.3% Issues and Options.
Written exam.

Where will it take you?

An A Level in Psychology can lead to university studies and a wide variety of careers that involve personal interaction or communication, such as marketing, health care and personnel management. If you want to enter or progress in employment, you'll find your A Level Psychology will demonstrate to employers that you have the ability to commit to learning, and have acquired good reasoning and analytical skills and an understanding of people – essential in practically every walk of life.

Who should you talk to?

Please speak to Mrs Ellison or email:
victoria.rennie@thebourneacademy.com