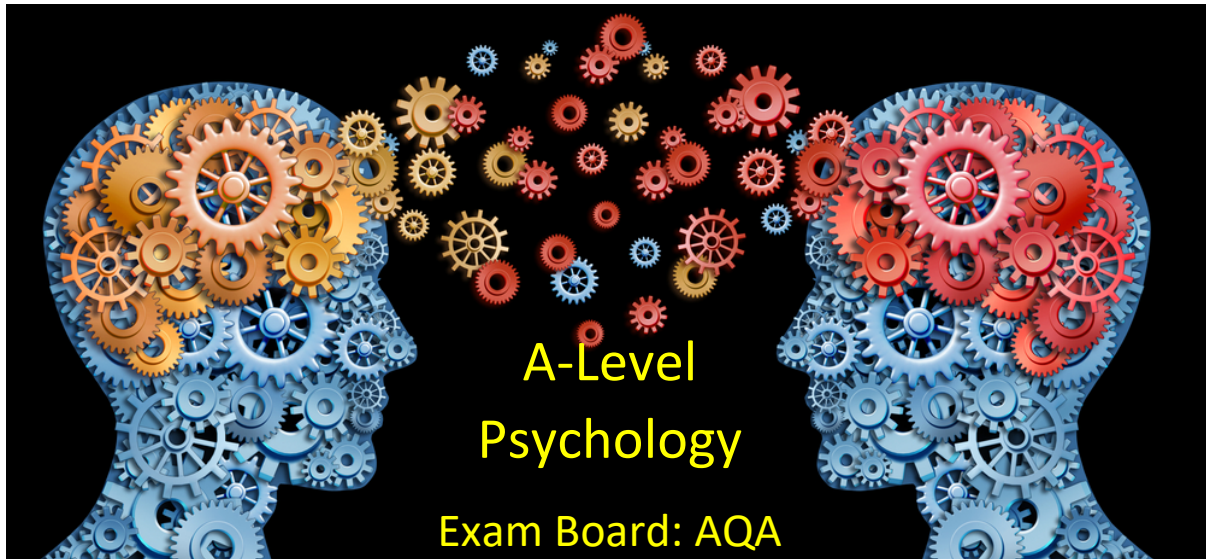


CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY
ISLINGTON

WHERE STUDENTS SUCCEED

Psychology



Why Study Psychology?

Psychology is the science of behaviour and experience. Studying behaviour involves focusing on what people (and other animals) actually do. Behaviour includes thinking, remembering and forgetting, growing up, being kind or aggressive, obeying or disobeying orders, being a parent, etc. In studying experience, psychologists are interested in what it is like to be the person exhibiting the behaviour: how it feels to be them and why they behave as they do.

In one way you are already a psychologist as you have opinions about why some people behave as they do. You might, for instance, think that football fans behave as they do because they do not care about the feelings of others. Such '*common sense*' kinds of theories are very widespread. But psychologists go beyond the common-sense approach in that they are concerned to examine closely the evidence on which such theories are based. They consider alternative explanations and conduct research to test the theories. To this end they employ a range of research methods, ranging from tightly controlled laboratory experiments to observation studies, to the construction of detailed case studies.

A range of methods is needed because psychologists are interested in a great many issues and some are more amenable to one method of study than to another. For instance, one cannot purposely damage someone's brain to see which part of the brain controls which function (that would be an experiment), but one can study very closely people who have received accidental brain damage (a case study).

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Psychology combines aspects of science and of humanities. You will find yourself working alongside some students whose other subjects are entirely sciences, others who are studying only humanities and some who are studying a combination. Psychology is a subject where they all meet, to the benefit of all.

AFTER A-LEVEL

Psychology is one of the fastest growing subjects at both A Level and at degree level. If you choose to study Psychology at university you will find a large number of courses to choose from, some of them covering the traditional areas of the subject and some with a narrower focus. After graduation many avenues are open, both in specialist areas of Psychology and in the wider market place. Clinical, educational, counselling, occupational and health psychology are just some of the specialist fields into which Psychology graduates may go. Others go into advertising, marketing, sales, market research, personnel, general management, the media – Psychology graduates turn up everywhere!

AQA PSYCHOLOGY A-LEVEL MODULES

AQA has made amendments to the Psychology course this year, in an attempt to bring it up-to-date, using modern research studies and current issues as its basis. Below is an overview of what you can expect over the next two years of A-Level study.

COURSE OUTLINE A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Paper 1: Written Paper All compulsory content Introductory Topics in Psychology Social Influence; Memory; Attachment; Psychopathology	33.3%	2 hours	4 compulsory sections 96 marks
Paper 2: Written Paper All compulsory content Psychology in Context Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research methods	33.3%	2 hours	3 compulsory sections 96 marks
Paper 3: Written Paper Compulsory and optional content Issues and Debates (compulsory) Optional to be confirmed, one from each of the following sections: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Relationships/Gender/ Cognition and Development2. Schizophrenia/Eating behaviour/Stress3. Aggression/Forensic psychology/Addiction	33.3%	2 hours	1 compulsory section plus 3 sections with optional topics 96 marks