

A Level Psychology



For additional information please contact or visit:

Miss Spencer - Teacher of Psychology:

nspencer@churchmead.org

Exam Board: AQA
Specification Number: AS - 7181
A Level - 7182

Entry Requirements:

You need to get a minimum grade 5 in English & Maths at GCSE level

Why study Psychology:

Psychology will help you understand human behaviour and mental processes and allow you to gain an insight into your own personality and behaviour. You will cover a diverse range of subjects including cognitive psychology, forensic psychology, psychopathology, attachment, social influence and biopsychology.

Critical thinking is a key part of a psychology and during the course you will develop the ability to research a topic or issue and evaluate and criticise a theory for its usefulness or a study for its methodology

Course requirements:

The AQA A Level Psychology will be assessed by completing three papers. Students studying this course are expected to have achieved at least a Grade 5 in English at GCSE level.

Subject Content

Compulsory content

- 1 [Social influence](#)
- 2 [Memory](#)
- 3 [Attachment](#)
- 4 [Psychopathology](#)
- 5 [Approaches in Psychology](#)
- 6 [Biopsychology](#)
- 7 [Research methods](#)
- 8 [Issues and debates in Psychology](#)

Optional (1 x from each option);

Option 1

- 9 [Relationships](#)
- 10 [Gender](#)
- 11 [Cognition and development](#)

Option 2

- 12 [Schizophrenia](#)
- 13 [Eating behaviour](#)
- 14 [Stress](#)

Option 3

- 15 [Aggression](#)
- 16 [Forensic Psychology](#)
- 17 [Addiction](#)

A2 Psychology Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology	Written examination: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A Level Compulsory content 1 - 4
A2 Psychology Paper 2: Psychology in Context	Written examination: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A Level Compulsory content 5 - 7
A2 Psychology Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology	Written examination: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A Level Compulsory content 8 <i>Optional content;</i> One from option 1, 9–11, One from option 2, 12–14, One from option 3, 15–17

How can I prepare?

Studying Psychology at A Level requires students to examine a range of topics. Students should read around the subject area and look to apply everyday situations to knowledge gained.

Students should practice formulating counter arguments and explore the basics involved in evaluating concepts, theories and studies.

To prepare yourself for the course there are various films that support some of the topics covered:

The Notebook (12) – Memory & explanations of forgetting

The Experimenter (12) – Social Influence & explanations of obedience

A Beautiful Mind (PG) – Psychopathology & schizophrenia

The Bodyguard (PG) – Relationships & factors affecting attraction

What could I do next with a Psychology A Level?

Studying A Level Psychology is a well-respected route to becoming a future psychologist, counsellor, criminologist, social worker, police or probation officer and many more professions. Psychology is currently the 3rd Science accepted for careers into Medicine along with traditional Chemistry and Biology.

Link to specification:

[AQA | AS and A-level | Psychology | Specification at a glance](#)

