

## **An introduction to AQA A Level Psychology**



# WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the **study of the mind and behaviour**. It is concerned with how people think, feel, develop and act, and tries to explain why people behave the way they do.

Nowadays, most branches are scientific, so it is generally considered to be a science, meaning that what you've learned in GCSE Science is going to come in very handy!

# IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. It is a Social Science.
- You will be studying the AQA Exam Board Specification. The specification can be found here <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF>, on the AQA website.
- This A Level is assessed entirely using exams. You will sit 3 two hour long exams in May and June of year 13. Examples of past exam papers can be found [here](#).
- 10% of your exam grade will be assessed on mathematics, so a good way to prepare is to brush up on your GCSE Statistics course.

# WHAT TOPICS WILL I BE STUDYING?

## Paper 1: Introductory topics

### Cognitive Psychology

- **Memory**
  - Models of short term memory
  - False memories and eyewitness testimony
  - Forgetting

### Developmental Psychology

- **Attachment**
  - How babies bond with parents
  - What happens if babies don't form attachments

### Social Psychology

- **Social Influence**
  - Why people conform and why they obey others
  - Why people refuse to conform or obey
  - Social change and minority influence

### Psychopathology

- **Abnormality**
  - What is abnormality?
  - Explanations of abnormality
  - Treatments for abnormality

# WHAT TOPICS WILL I BE STUDYING?

## **Paper 2: Psychology in context**

### Approaches to psychology

- Psychodynamic, humanist, behavioural, cognitive and biological
- Biopsychology
  - The nervous system and the endocrine system
  - Neurons and synaptic transmission
  - The fight or flight response

### Research Methods

- How to conduct research and experiments in Psychology

# WHAT TOPICS WILL I BE STUDYING?

## **Paper 3 (studied in Year 13)**

- Issues and Debates
- Relationships
- Forensic Psychology
- Schizophrenia

## **Other Year 13 content:**

- Year 2 Research Methods
  - Inferential statistical tests
  - Psychology as a science
- Year 2 Biopsychology
  - The brain
  - Plasticity
  - Biorhythms



# CAREERS

Psychology can be very useful in many careers, including:

- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Counselling
- Healthcare
- Nursing
- Social work
- Teaching
- Human resources
- Neuroscientist
- Therapist
- Research

Find more information on careers in psychology on these websites:

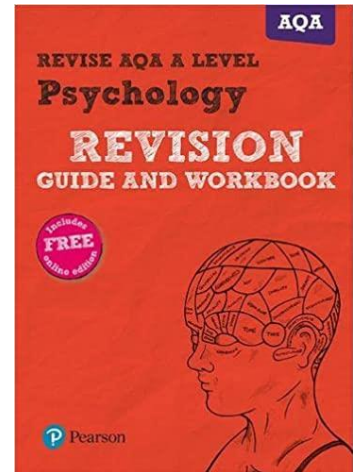
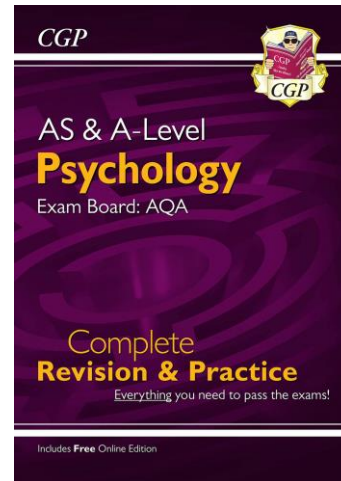
<https://www.bps.org.uk/public/become-psychologist/career-options-psychology>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/psychology>



# WHAT WILL I NEED TO BRING TO LESSONS?

You will need a lever arch file for each topic and A4 notepad, some file dividers, coloured pens, a highlighter and a revision guide for **AQA** exam board.



# BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

Possible extra curricular trips could include a trip to London to explore various attractions such as the Jack the Ripper museum and the Clink prison to unpick human behaviour and the criminal mind.

