



# Psychology

## Course objectives

Psychology is a subject which provides explanations for human behaviour. The course will enable you to gain insight into the behaviour of yourself and of those around you. It should therefore prove useful in your everyday relationships as well as an asset in any form of employment which requires working with people. The skills learned are transferrable to university.

## Main qualifications

- A Level

## Awarding Body

- AQA

## Duration/ Lessons per week

- 10 x 1 hour lessons over a two week timetable

## Entry requirements

- - Standard entry requirements—Grade 5 in both English Language & Mathematics. Grade 5 in science is desirable.
- - No requirements to have studied psychology at GCSE. However if studied at GCSE should have a grade C.

## Progression opportunities

- Psychology can be of use in any psychology occupation which involves working with people. A Level also provides a good basis for a degree in social science and can eventually lead to a career in psychology as an educational or clinical psychologist, among numerous possible career paths.

## Course content

### Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

**Social Influence:** e.g. why do we readily obey and comply with others.

**Memory:** e.g. the reliability of eyewitness testimony and reasons why we forget.

**Psychopathology:** e.g. Definitions of abnormal behaviour and the causes and treatments of OCD, Depression and Phobias.

**Attachment:** e.g. theories of why attachment is important for us at an early and the consequences of not forming them on a child's future psychological development.



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## Course content

### Paper 2: Psychology in Context

**Approaches in psychology:** e.g. the origins of psychology and learning about the different approaches (Biological, Cognitive and Behavioural) that help to explain human behaviour.

**Biopsychology:** e.g. the divisions of the nervous system, the structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. The process of synaptic transmission, the function of the endocrine system and the fight or flight response.

**Research Methods:** e.g. you will learn about the many different ways in which we study behaviour from experiments to interviews. You will learn the scientific processes and techniques of data handling and analysis, and be actively engaged in practical work in the classroom.

### Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

**Issues and Debates in psychology:** e.g. Gender and culture in psychology, Free will and determinism, the nature-nurture debate, holism and reductionism, idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation and ethical implications of research.

**Cognitive Development** e.g. How children think, explore and problem solve.

**Schizophrenia:** e.g. the symptoms, causes and explanations of schizophrenia

**Forensic Psychology:** e.g. explanations for why people offend and offender profiling.

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## Assessment

- There are three 2 hour examinations

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## Staff contact

- Mrs S. Gray
- E-mail: [sgray@ringwood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:sgray@ringwood.hants.sch.uk)