



Psychology

AQA A level Psychology



Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. Psychology is one of the most popular A level and degree courses. The A level Psychology course gives a broad introduction to this fascinating subject.

Topics you will study

Year 12:

Research Methods: the methods psychologists use to study the mind and behaviour

Issues and Debates: gender and cultural bias in psychology, free will-determinism, nature-nurture and more...

Approaches: the psychodynamic, learning, humanist, cognitive and biological approaches.

Biopsychology: the nervous and endocrine systems, biological rhythms and recovery from brain trauma

Memory: theories of memory and research into eyewitness testimony

Social Influence: conformity, obedience, resistance to social influence and social change

Year 13:

Research Methods: how psychologists analyse data and report their findings

Attachment: attachment types, the role of the father, institutionalisation, the influence of early attachments

Psychopathology: the symptoms, explanations and therapies for phobias, OCD and depression

Schizophrenia: the symptoms, explanations and therapies for phobias, OCD and depression

Gender: the symptoms, explanations and therapies for phobias, OCD and depression

Forensic Psychology: explanations for criminal behaviour and ways to dealing with offenders

Why study this subject?

- You will develop a deeper understanding of why people think and behave as they do
- You will develop the ability to critically evaluate scientific theories, studies and therapies
- You will learn the symptoms, causes and treatments for mental health conditions

Why study this subject at Aston?

- 100% pass rate (2024)
- Teaching by a Psychology graduate with 15 years' experience of teaching, tutoring and examining.
- Smaller class sizes than college allowing for more personal support

Assessment

Your grade will be based on three 2- hour exams in summer of Year 13.

Paper 1: Social Influence; Memory; Attachment; Psychopathology

Paper 2: Approaches; Biopsychology; Research Methods

Paper 3: Issues and Debates; Schizophrenia; Gender; Forensic Psychology

Links particularly well with these subjects

Biology, Maths, Sociology, English Language and Literature, Health and Social Care, Sport

Entry requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language, Mathematics and Science.

Useful for careers in....

Psychology is especially helpful for the following careers: Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Medicine, Nursing, Counsellor, Data analyst, Human resources, Teaching, Social work, Marketing, Advertising.