

## Psychology A-level

Exam board: AQA

### Where do I start?

You must meet the minimum entry requirements of Wootton Park VI. In addition, you then also need at least a **Grade 6 in English, and Grade 5 in Maths and Biology/Combined Sciences.**

### Psychology – about the subject:

Psychology is defined as ‘the scientific study of the mind and behaviour’. The A level course considers how our memory works and how the accuracy of eyewitness accounts of a crime can be affected by different factors. It also looks at the process of attachment between infants and their caregivers and what can happen if this process is disrupted. Learners will also explore reasons why people obey authority figures and conform to peer pressure. In Psychopathology, we look at different ways to define abnormality and examine different approaches and treatments for abnormality. As learners progress through the course, they will study three optional topics in more depth as well as the wider issues in Psychology itself. Throughout this course, learners will develop understanding of how psychologists use different research techniques to carry out their work as well as looking at the different approaches/perspectives used by psychologists to explain human behaviour.

### What type of learner chooses Psychology?

Psychology is a fascinating and varied subject and will interest anyone who has ever wondered why people behave in the way they do. We try to answer that question with scientific rigour. It is an academically challenging course and is seen as very good preparation for any degree or career. Many learners may choose to study Psychology to degree level and beyond.

### What aspects of the subject will I be studying?

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Approaches in Psychology
- Psychopathology
- Research Methods
- Issues and Debates



One chosen topic from:

- Relationships
- Gender
- Cognition and Development

One chosen topic from:

- Schizophrenia
- Eating behaviour
- Stress

One chosen topic from

- Aggression
- Forensic Psychology
- Addiction

### How will I be assessed?

You will have a practical for each topic that you complete which will allow you to carry out your own psychological research/investigations. You will also complete mock examinations and past papers to prepare for your final examination. There are three exams at the end of the two years. These will be three 2 hour exams that make up 33.3% of the A level. They will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer, and extended writing questions.

### What are the career/higher education prospects?

Popular career paths include. Clinical psychology, counselling, educational psychologist, forensic psychologist, teacher, sport and exercise psychologist. Fields where psychology qualifications are very beneficial include the NHS, police force, education, social services and human resources. Any path that involves working with people, Psychology will benefit!