

A-Level Preparation into the Sixth Form 2026

Psychology

The course:

A general definition of Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. The course is AQA specification A and comprises of four units. In year 12 the students will study units one and two and year 13 will study units three and four.

Subject Content

Compulsory content:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods
- Issues and debates in Psychology

Optional Content – 1 topic covered from each option below: Usually Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology

Option 1:

- Relationships
- Gender
- Cognition and development

Option 2:

- Schizophrenia
- Eating behaviour
- Stress

Option 3:

- Aggression
- Forensic Psychology
- Addiction

Recommended Reading:

Malcolm Gladwell – Blink

Malcolm Gladwell – Talking to Strangers

Matthew Walker – Why we Sleep: The New Science of Sleep and Dreams

Psychology Review magazine

BPS Research Digest

Task:

Research Psychological Approaches from the 'History of Psychology' and Introspection (Wilhelm Wundt), Behaviourism (Skinner, Pavlov), Social Learning Theory (Bandura), the Biological Approach, Psychodynamic Approach (Freud) and Humanistic Approach (Maslow, Rogers). Look at different research methods that Psychologists have used from early experimental psychology to cognitive neuroscience and brain scanning.