

# Psychology: A-level (Awarding Body AQA)

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Language grade 5, GCSE Biology grade 5 and GCSE Maths Grade 5.

## CONTENT

A-Level Psychology is a two-year course assessed via three external examinations

### Paper 1

Introductory Topics in Psychology: social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology

- How do parents influence our adult relationships?
- Why do people obey authority, even if that order is to kill another human being?

### Paper 2

Psychology in context: approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods.

- Can we explain human behaviour through our biology or is it a result of the environment that we are exposed to?
- What happens when we go to sleep?
- What happens if we sever the link between the two hemispheres of the brain?

### Paper 3

Issues and options in Psychology: issues and debates, relationships, schizophrenia and forensic Psychology.

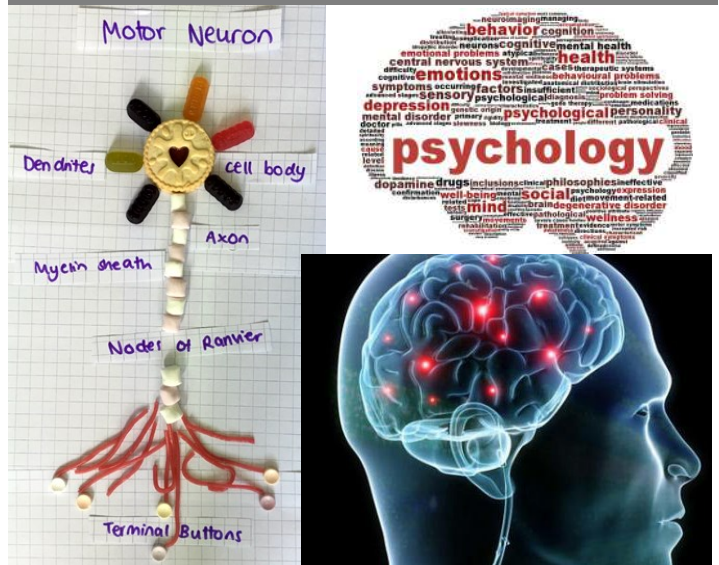
- Are we in control of our behaviour?
- Do birds of a feather flock together or do opposites attract?
- How reliable is our current diagnosis of schizophrenia?
- Is there a gene for criminality?

## PROGRESSION

Many of our students continue their psychological studies beyond A-level, either via Psychology or in subjects that are likely to have psychological content such as Criminology, Forensic Science, Cognitive Neuroscience, Primary Teaching, Nursing and Sports Science.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. It concerns itself with how and why people act the way they do. This course will give you an insight into key psychological studies and the varying psychological approaches to explain human behaviour. It will also provide a grounding in the workings of scientific research. Psychology is a great facilitating subject which develops a wide range of skills that are transferable to higher-level study and employment.



I've always been intrigued by the causes of human behaviour and wanted to explore a subject that was completely fresh and new following on from GCSEs. Psychology lessons are always so interesting and I leave with a full understanding of the subject as my teacher is very supportive and ensures everyone is confident in what we've been taught. The extra support that's given allows us to acknowledge our own individual improvements and keep track of our progress.

As it is a content-heavy A-level, you are required to develop a solid understanding of aspects such as research methods and in-depth explanations of human behaviour. I personally really enjoyed learning of elements such as the theories of attachment or explanations for the development of mental disorders such as schizophrenia. Because of this, I feel confident that the skills I've acquired will apply effectively as I go on to study Psychology as a degree at university. **LAUREN BASTOW**

