



# *PSYCHOLOGY*

Gordon's  
Sixth Form

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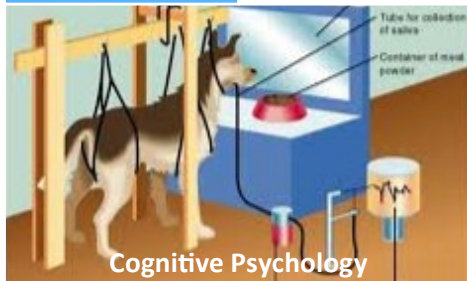
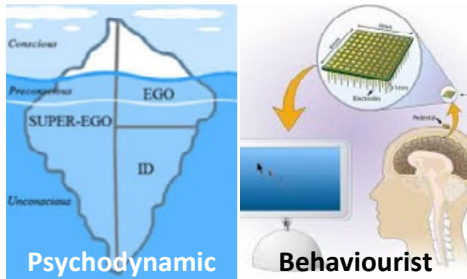
A LEVEL

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## Understanding Human Behaviour

Ever wondered why good people do bad things - the Lucifer effect? Why some become criminals? Why we sleep? Why some individuals feel trapped in the wrong body? Why we fall in love with some people but not others?

## Psychology at a glance



## What do students say about the subject?

"Psychology has made me look at life from a different perspective." **Year 13 Student**

"Psychology has helped me to better understand the world around me." **Year 13 Student**

"I have enjoyed taking part in experiments." **Year 12 Student**

"I find it interesting learning about WHY we behave in certain situations." **Year 12 Student**

"It's really well taught." **Year 12 Student**

This course has been carefully designed to offer you an accessible, interesting and challenging first year of Psychology. You will gain insight into why people obey authority, why we conform to group norms, why we forget things and why we are shaped by our childhood experiences. You will learn how to treat depression, how to explain eating behaviour and how to undertake practical research and analyse data. Many of these skills are transferable and act as a foundation for you as an independent learner.

The second year builds on the topics covered in year 1 and offers more depth, critical thinking and enhanced analysis. There is an expectation that the debate will broaden and discussions become more aware of the bigger picture. There are added topics such as Biopsychology and three option topics for paper 3.

## Course Structure

### Paper 1 - Introductory topics in Psychology:

- Memory
- Social influence
- Psychopathology
- Attachment

### Paper 2 - Psychology in Context:

- Research methods
- Biopsychology
- Approaches

### Paper 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology plus one option from each category:

- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic psychology
- Issues and debates

## The Exam

Each paper is two hours long and worth 33.3% of the A Level. There are three exams in total.



## Why Psychology?

As a science, Psychology adds weight and credibility to your A Level options. It opens a range of career opportunities and students often continue on to complete a degree and careers within Psychology and other areas for which Psychology provides a good foundation. There is an overlap with natural sciences for example biology and maths.

## Psychology as a Subject

Studying Psychology at A Level allows students to explain and evaluate human behaviour, undertake research, apply knowledge to case study scenarios and drive their own education as independent learners.

It is recommended that students read additional source materials, attend conferences and seminars independently in order to broaden the subject knowledge and gain experiences which will benefit them in the future.

Psychology lessons are interactive and fun, characterised by debates, discussions and applying knowledge to case study scenarios. It also relies on traditional skills as it involves

mathematics in the research methods topic and essay writing to assess evidence and theories in all other topics. It draws on skills from scientists and humanists alike.

It suits the curiously minded, who would like to further develop critical thinking, and delve deeper into the reasons for, and the issues with, human behaviour!

## Psychology can be useful for

Clinical psychologist, counselling psychologist, educational psychologist, forensic psychologist, further education teacher, health psychologist, high intensity therapist, occupational psychologist, psychological wellbeing practitioner, sport and exercise psychologist, advice worker, careers adviser, counsellor, detective, human resources officer, life coach, market researcher, play therapist, psychotherapist.

## Some of the most influential psychologists

Sigmund Freud, B F Skinner, Ivan Pavlov, Albert Bandura, Carl Rogers, John Bowlby, Mary Ainsworth and Elizabeth Loftus to name but a few.

# PSYCHOLOGY

## HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

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**Exam Board:**           **Specification:**

AQA

7182

## COURSE DETAILS

### Examination

The course is examined as a whole at the end of Year 13.

### Unit 1: Introductory topics in Psychology (Year 1)

Students will study four topics within this unit: Social Influence, **Attachment, Memory and Psychopathology**. Each topic requires students to explain key concepts and ideas, evaluate those ideas using research evidence and also to apply knowledge to an unseen scenario. This paper will include some research methods.

### Unit 2: Psychology in context (Year 1 and 2)

For this unit students will study **Research Methods, Biopsychology and Approaches**. Students are asked to explain and evaluate a range of research methods and will also be assessed on their ability to analyse and perform calculations of data. The 'Approaches' topic includes a range of psychological theories and students will need to be able to describe and evaluate each theory.

### Unit 3: Issues and options in Psychology (Year 2)

This unit reflects the pure A-Level content of options chosen as well as underpinning the issues and debates topic. In the Issues and Debates topic, students will explore issues such as gender bias within Psychology. Options chosen at A-Level are **Schizophrenia, Relationships and Forensic Psychology**.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Papers Year 13	% of GCE	Details
<b>Paper 1:</b> Introductory topics in psychology	<b>33%</b>	Students are assessed on their knowledge, understanding, application and evaluation of <b>Social Influence, Attachment, Memory and Psychopathology topics.</b>
<b>Paper 2:</b> Psychology in context	<b>33%</b>	Students are assessed on their knowledge, understanding, application and evaluation of <b>Biopsychology, Approaches, and Research Methods.</b> Data interpretation and mathematical content is also included.
<b>Paper 3:</b> Issues and options in psychology	<b>33%</b>	Students are assessed on their knowledge, understanding, application and evaluation of <b>Schizophrenia, Relationships and Forensic Psychology.</b>

## WIDER READING

- Ronson, Jon (2011) *The psychopath test: A journey through the madness industry.* London: Picador.
- Sacks, Oliver (1985) *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat.* London: Picador
- Tatum, Beverly Daniel (2021) *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* London: Penguin.







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