

# PSYCHOLOGY



ROYAL  
HOSPITAL  
SCHOOL



**EVER WONDERED IF PRISON  
REALLY DOES CHANGE  
CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR?**

**OR WHY SOME PEOPLE  
CONFORM?**

**OR PERHAPS IF THE  
EXPERIENCES YOU HAD  
BEFORE THE AGE OF FIVE  
REALLY DO SHAPE THE  
PERSON YOU ARE TODAY?**

## WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology explores why we behave the way we do. It helps us to understand how we become social humans and gives us insight into the motives behind our actions. Psychology helps us understand how the mind functions, and helps us identify and understand mental disorders. It explains why people behave differently in the same scenario. It brings awareness to the nature of human beings, as well as insight into how we learn, develop and can improve our own, and other people's lives.

The insight you'll gain from studying a Psychology A Level can help you better understand the people around you. As a result, this will give you real-life skills to apply in everyday situations. It is a science, based on cutting-edge research, that has a broad appeal.

## SKILLS REQUIRED?

Due to the mathematical and scientific elements in Psychology, to study this subject at A Level you will need a good GCSE grade (5 or 6) in Mathematics and Science. If you decide to continue with Psychology at degree level, a number of universities require a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. Pupils will also be required to write clearly, including 16 mark essays, so they need to consider their writing skills before selecting Psychology A Level.

**LIKE ALL SCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY IS  
KNOWLEDGE; AND LIKE SCIENCE AGAIN,  
IT IS KNOWLEDGE OF A DEFINITE THING,  
THE MIND.**

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A Level Psychology at RHS follows the AQA syllabus.

There are three exams, each accounting for one third of your A Level. Each exam lasts 2 hours, is worth 96 marks and consists of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

In the first year you will cover the following topics:

- Introductory topics in psychology: learn about conformity, social norms, how the mind remembers and forgets and how children form attachments.
- Psychology in context: learn more about the different approaches in psychology, biopsychology and how to design and conduct your own research.

In the second year of the A Level you'll deepen your understanding of human behaviour by studying issues and debates in psychology, where you will learn about the fascinating tendencies of human behaviour, as well as three additional topics which could be Forensic Psychology, Gender, Schizophrenia or Relationships. In these topics you will develop your understanding of psychological concepts, research methods and ethical issues.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

A Level Psychology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you, whether you decide to go on to further study or the working world, including:

- analytical thinking
- improved communication
- problem solving
- planning and conducting scientific investigations
- analysing and interpreting data
- critical reasoning skills
- how to view the world around you from different perspectives
- how to put across your point of view fluently





# HOW WILL IT FIT IN WITH MY OTHER SUBJECTS?

Psychology will complement just about any other subject. Pupils who study Psychology often also study Biology, Business, English or Sport. Also, pupils who want a career in any of the caring services, or in marketing or human resources, will find an understanding of psychology useful.

## POSSIBLE DEGREE OPTIONS

According to [bestcourse4me.com](http://bestcourse4me.com), the top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in Psychology are:

- Psychology
- English Studies
- Sociology
- Business Studies
- Teaching
- Sport and Exercise Science
- Law

## POSSIBLE CAREER OPTIONS

Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. Of course, if you wish to become a psychologist, therapist or mental health worker, this A Level is of direct value.

Studying Psychology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including:

- Marketing
- Business development
- Accountancy
- Human resources
- Forensic psychology
- Occupational therapy
- Clinical psychology
- Nursing
- Teaching

[www.bps.org.uk/careers-in-psychology](http://www.bps.org.uk/careers-in-psychology)

## THINK DIFFERENTLY WITH A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

If you would like to discuss the A Level specification and the options that the Psychology Department offer, please don't hesitate to contact  
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