RGS
NEWCASTLE

INTRODUCTION TO

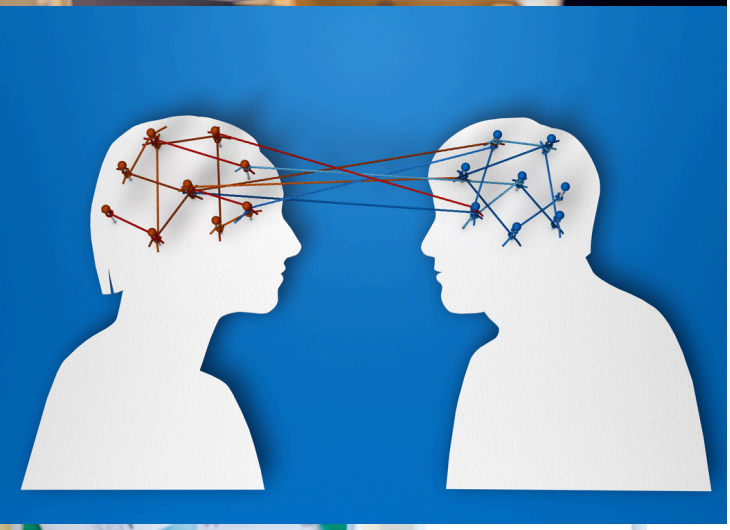
PSYCHOLOGY

at RGS











Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. While it has its roots in philosophy, psychology has developed into a rigorous scientific discipline, drawing extensively on the methods and knowledge of biology and medicine.

It seeks to understand why people think, feel, and behave as they do, using evidence-based research to explore both everyday behaviour and complex psychological conditions.

At RGS, our aim is to nurture curiosity, scientific thinking, and a deep understanding of what it means to be human - qualities that stay with our students long after they leave the classroom.



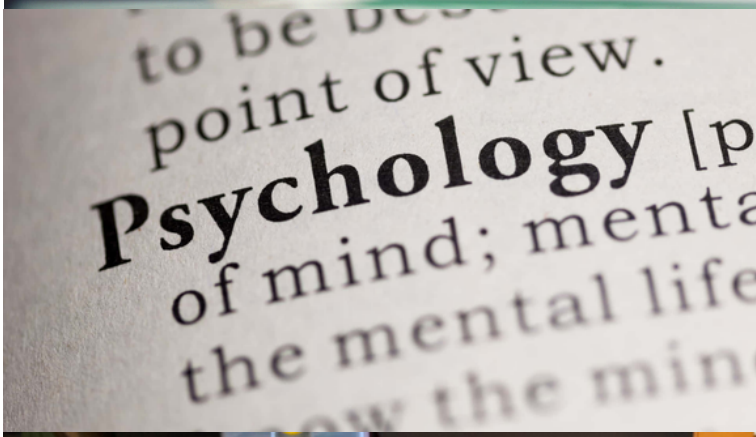
WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

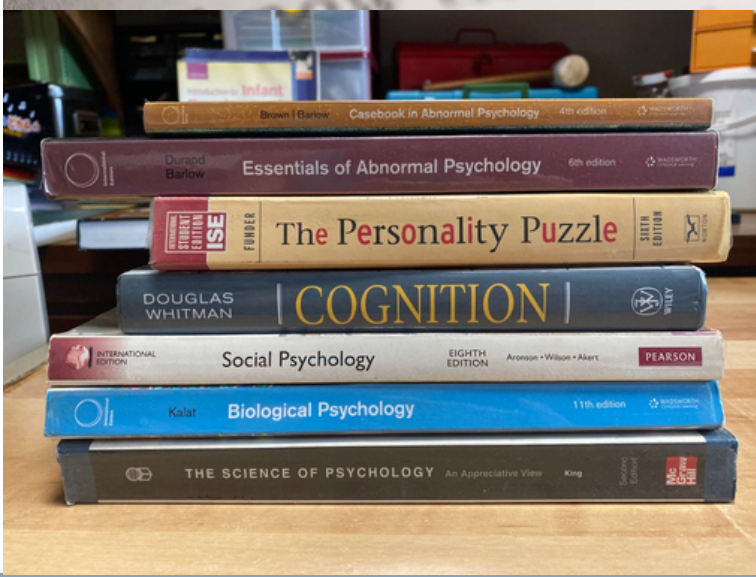
Psychology is a richly diverse subject which encourages students to think critically, evaluate evidence, and apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations. Our students thrive in positive, supportive classroom environments where discussion, debate, and collaboration are central to learning.

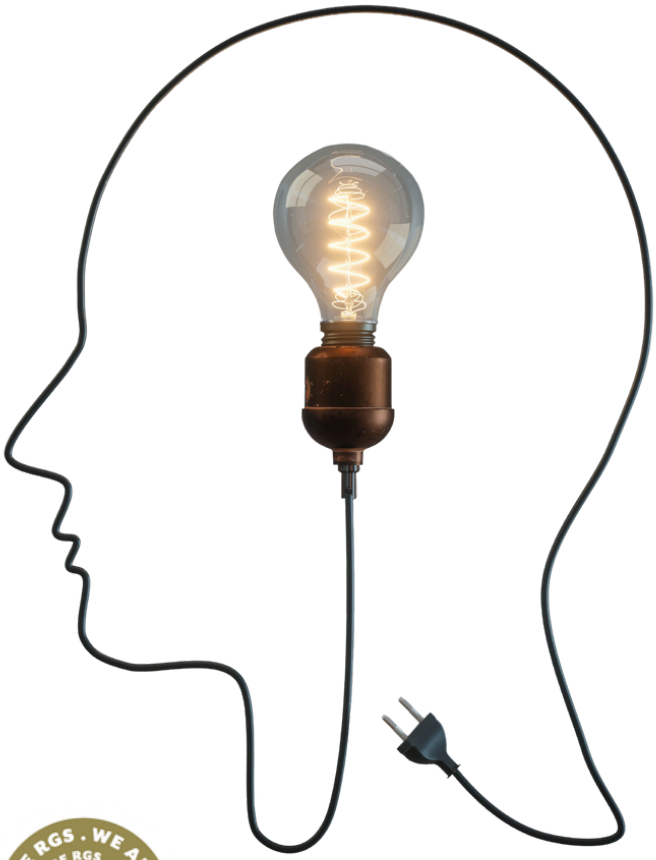
Psychology develops highly transferable skills, including analytical reasoning, essay writing, research design, data interpretation, and empathy. These skills are valued by universities and employers alike.



















A-Level Psychology

We follow the AQA A-Level Psychology specification, which is assessed via three examinations at the end of Year 13 (Papers 1, 2, and 3). There is no coursework.

This specification allows students to appreciate the breadth of psychology as a research discipline, reflecting its theoretical, scientific, biological, and social foundations. Across the course, students study eleven distinct modules, developing a well-rounded understanding of psychology as both a science and a social endeavour.

MODULES

Across the two years, students explore 11 modules:

- Social Influence – Why do people conform or obey authority figures? We examine classic studies such as Milgram's obedience research and consider real-world applications, from peer pressure to leadership.
- Memory – How reliable is eyewitness testimony? Students learn about models of memory, factors affecting recall, and the implications for criminal investigations.
- Attachment – How do early bonds shape later relationships? We explore theories of attachment, the impact of deprivation, and the long-term effects on emotional development.



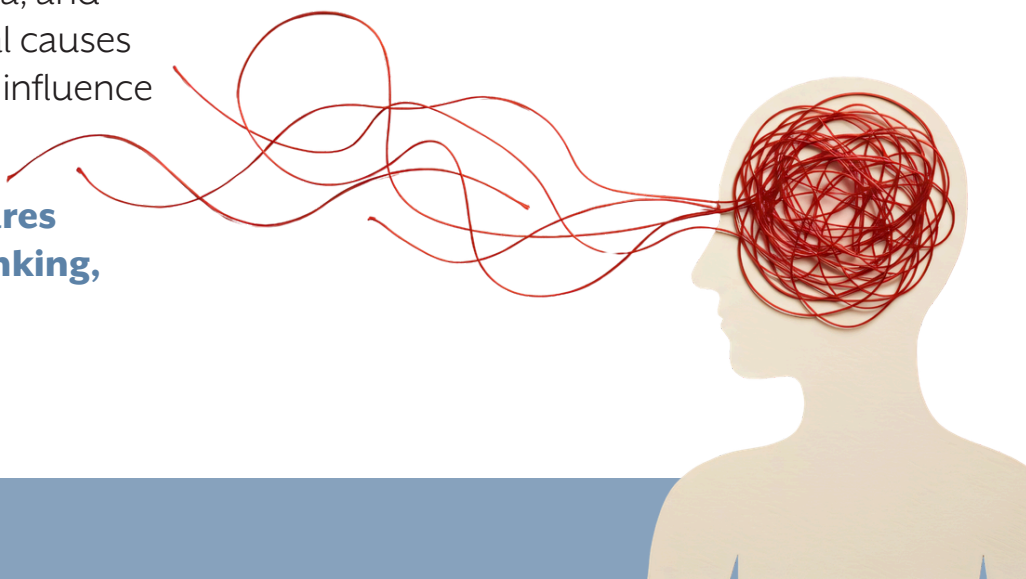
MODULES CONTINUED

- Clinical Psychology & Mental Health – What causes mental illness and how can it be treated? Students study depression, OCD, and phobias, evaluating behavioural, cognitive, and biological explanations and therapies.
- Approaches & Biopsychology – We compare major psychological perspectives and investigate the biological basis of behaviour, including the nervous system, hormones, and brain function.
- Research Methods – A core module that teaches students how to design, conduct, and analyse psychological investigations, including statistical techniques and ethical considerations.
- Issues & Debates – Students tackle big questions such as nature versus nurture, cultural bias, and whether psychology can ever be truly objective.
- Relationships, Schizophrenia & Aggression – These applied topics cover theories of romantic relationships, explanations and treatments for schizophrenia, and biological and psychological causes of aggression, including the influence of media and video games.









This diverse curriculum ensures students develop critical thinking, scientific literacy, and an appreciation of psychology's relevance to everyday life.











PSYCHOLOGY BEYOND RGS

Studying Psychology opens doors to a wide range of exciting and meaningful careers. The subject equips students with analytical thinking, research skills, and an understanding of human behaviour, qualities that are highly valued across many sectors.

Direct Psychology Careers

- Clinical Psychology – Working in hospitals, clinics, or private practice to assess and treat mental health conditions.
- Counselling and Therapy – Supporting individuals through emotional and behavioural challenges.
- Educational Psychology – Helping children and young people overcome learning and developmental difficulties.
- Forensic Psychology – Applying psychological principles in criminal investigations, prisons, and rehabilitation programmes.
- Health Psychology – Promoting healthy behaviours and supporting patients with chronic illness.
- Sports Psychology – Enhancing performance and wellbeing in athletes and teams.
- Consumer and Marketing Psychology – Understanding consumer behaviour to shape advertising and product design.



CAREERS CONTINUED

Psychology-Related Professions

- Medicine and Psychiatry – Many students progress to medical degrees and specialise in psychiatry.
- Human Resources and Organisational Development – Managing recruitment, training, and workplace wellbeing.
- Law and Criminology – Using psychological insights in legal practice and criminal profiling.
- Business and Management – Applying behavioural science to leadership, decision-making, and negotiation.
- Data Science and UX Design – Combining psychological principles with technology to improve user experience.

Emerging Fields

- Cyberpsychology – Exploring human interaction with technology and social media.
- Neuropsychology – Studying brain-behaviour relationships in clinical and research settings.
- AI and Behavioural Analytics – Using psychological insights to inform artificial intelligence and predictive modelling.

Whether students pursue a psychology-specific career or move into law, healthcare, education, or business, the skills gained through studying psychology provide a strong foundation for success in an increasingly people-focused world.













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From first lessons in Year 12 to advanced applications in Year 13, Psychology at RGS is a journey of discovery that helps you understand yourself and others. We look forward to welcoming you to explore it further at RGS.

If you would like further information about Psychology at RGS please contact Dr Katy Jacques, Head of Psychology via k.jacques@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

