

Psychology A Level

How good do I have to be at Maths?

There is a lot of Maths involved and we ask for a 7 in Maths and Science in order to come onto the course. We cover research methods and statistics and this is worth 33% of the marks on each paper.

Why level 7 in maths?

There is a lot of numeracy calculations of percentages, fractions and statistics

What sort of questions are there in the exams?

The exam is structured like a science GCSE paper and you do all your work onto this. You will have a mixture of short answer questions worth 1-4 marks and then there will be essays. Also there are application questions where you have to apply your knowledge to a new scenario/situation. In lower sixth this will be a maximum of 12 marks, building up to 16 marks in upper sixth

What can I do with Psychology?

Many students go on to take a degree in Psychology, last year the top graduate destinations were:

Human health and social work

Education

Retail/administrative and support

Legal, social, and welfare professions

Business, HR, and finance

Marketing, PR, and sales

What subjects does it go well with?

Psychology is a science A Level and complements most subjects well. It is most commonly taken with Biology, Economics, Sociology, Maths and Geography. We have had students this year have Psychology as their fourth Science A Level for Medicine and Veterinary Science applications

How long are the essay questions?

12 marks in lower sixth, building up to 16 marks in upper sixth

How biology intensive is the course?

Biology is a core element to the course. We cover the biological approach as part of our first unit, Approaches and then it is a compulsory unit - Biopsychology in upper sixth. We cover the biological approach in all of our course, for example, biological explanations of schizophrenia, biological explanations for criminal behaviour, biological explanations of attachment and focus on evolutionary, genetic, neural and hormonal explanations.

Are there any practical sessions?

We set students mini pieces of practical research to carry out throughout the two years to embed their knowledge of research methods

Do we choose any modules?

There are optional modules but these are chosen by your teachers. We opt for aggression, relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology in upper sixth as this combination best suits our learners

What is the difference between psychology and sociology?

Psychologists and sociologists both study people, but while psychologists delve into the mind of an individual or small group to understand human behavior and social and emotional reactions, sociologists look beyond individuals to examine society through specific associations – such as the family, race or religion – to understand current issues.

Although they both gain qualitative and quantitative data, Psychology does focus more heavily on the scientific processes.

How many classes?

Currently 3 classes of 26 on each for Lower sixth