

# GCE Advanced Level Psychology

Exam Board: AQA



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# GCE Advanced Level Psychology

## Description:

The aims and objectives of the AQA GCE Advanced Psychology are to enable students to:

5 or more level 5 or above (GCSE or BTEC equivalent) including

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues in relation to Psychology.
- Apply psychological knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts.
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods in relation to the Psychological content.
- Evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills through study of the specification content and through ethical practical research activities, involving:
  - Designing research
  - Conducting research
  - Analysing and interpreting data

Students are introduced to Psychology by covering topics that show that we can explain human behaviour from a range of viewpoints and with an emphasis on conducting their own research wherever possible. They extend their GCSE Mathematics by applying data handling techniques learning how to understand inferential statistics. They extend their GCSE Science in Biology, in particular in how the brain works and how it is studied.

## Career paths:

A qualification in Psychology provides students with opportunities to pursue careers in these fields:

- Clinical psychology
- Counselling
- Forensic psychology
- Occupational psychology
- Sport and fitness psychology
- Teaching
- Media
- Advertising
- Research

## Entry Requirements:

level 5+ in Maths, a minimum level 5 in English, and a minimum of level 6 in a Science based subject.

## Course details & Assessment:

During the 2-year course, students will study:

**Theme 1:** Introductory topics in Psychology (paper 1)

- **Social Influence** i.e. any change in an individual's beliefs attitudes or behaviours that result from interaction with another individual or group
- **Memory** i.e. different aspects of memory and forgetting as well as theory applied to the topic of eye witness testimony
- **Attachment:** how infants and caregivers interact and the importance of this for later development
- **Psychopathology:** definitions of abnormality characteristics of different disorders and explanations and treatments of these disorders

**Theme 3:** Issues and Options in Psychology

- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology
- Research methods

**Theme 2:** Psychology in context (paper 2)

- **Approaches in Psychology** i.e learning approach, cognitive approach, biological approach and the origins of psychology, psychodynamic approach and humanistic approach
- **Research methods:** Experimental methods, observational studies, correlations a range of scientific processes and data handling and analysis and additional A-level content
- **Biopsychology:** AS content includes the nervous system and endocrine/hormone systems, fight and flight A 'level content includes localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation, studying brain function and biological rhythms
- **Issues and debates in Psychology**, e.g.the ideas of free will Vs determinism, nature Vs nurture, holistic and reductionist views



For more information about Psychology see Mrs Glanvill/ Mrs Forster  
[Rachael.Glanvill@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk](mailto:Rachael.Glanvill@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk)  
[Pauline.Forster@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk](mailto:Pauline.Forster@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk)