

Psychology

A LEVEL - AQA

What are the aims of the course?

Students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues in relation to psychology
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods
- Evaluate therapies and treatments; their appropriateness and effectiveness
- Gain knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills

What does it involve?

Compulsory topics in the first year are:

- Social Influence – obedience and compliance
- Memory – how memory works and why we forget
- Attachment – how children bond with parents and how this affects later relationships
- Psychopathology – mental illnesses (OCD, depression and phobias)
- Biopsychology – how the brain and nervous system work on a biological level
- Issues and Approaches in Psychology – nature/nurture, Freudianism and others
- Research Methods and practical experiments

In the Upper Sixth, students will learn three applied options:

- Relationships – romance and attraction, virtual relationships and why relationships fail
- Schizophrenia – diagnosis and treatments
- Forensic psychology – criminal and investigative psychology

How is it assessed?

The A Level is assessed with three equally weighted written papers, each lasting 2 hours.

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students should have at least a grade C in IGCSE/ GCSE Maths, a science (preferably Biology) and English. It is not necessary to have taken GCSE Psychology, as the course is designed for beginners.

Why is it a useful qualification?

Psychology is now one of the most popular options in Rossall School and is consistently in the top chosen subjects at A Level and universities across the UK. The reason for this is simple, it is a great way to learn a science subject, study the human mind and gain transferable skills in report writing and statistical analysis.

Most jobs now involve people and the A Level is designed to help you understand how people think and behave. Students from Rossall who have taken Psychology now enjoy a wide range of careers including Medicine, Business, Marketing, Law, Policing and even Food Psychology.

Now officially classed as the fourth science subject, Psychology can support many scientific disciplines, including Medicine and Neuroscience.

