



# PSYCHOLOGY

**Entry Requirements:** Grades 6,5 in two Sciences and Grade 4 in English Language

**Exam board:** AQA

**Full Subject Specification website:** <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF>

## Why study Psychology:

Our teaching, distinguished for highlighting the scientific rigour and applications of Psychology, gives you the unique opportunity to experience the world of Psychology like no other place. You will participate in fascinating scientific experiments such as exploring how your memory works and be introduced to some of the high-tech apparatus used to measure brain activity.

At Stratford upon Avon School Psychology is not just a subject, it's an experience. We organise many educational visits to enrich your learning. For example, we visit a Zoo to gain practical experience of designing and conducting observational research. In addition, a variety of expert speakers are invited throughout the year to deliver inspirational talks on the applications of psychology in various settings ranging from hospitals to the armed forces.

We want you to achieve a psychology qualification that gives you more than just knowledge. We're hands-on and always on hand. Considerable attention is devoted to developing your skills in the use of research methods in psychological science, learning how to apply your knowledge in different contexts and getting to grips with the important mathematical requirements integral to psychology. You will get outstanding personalised support from dedicated staff through one-to-one mentoring and small group sessions to develop these important skills that are in high demand by universities and employers.

Our staff are highly experienced A-level Examiners, active members/affiliates of the British Psychological Society and American Psychological Association and have had research published in scientific journals. Our department is the best place to get a clear and accurate representation of how Psychology works as a science. Come and join our forward thinking department.

## Subject Specification Outline:

This specification consists of 10 main topics:

**1. Social influence:** you will explore psychological explanations for obedience as well as explanations of resistance to social influence.

**2. Memory:** you will investigate factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony such as misleading information and anxiety and how the accuracy of eyewitness testimony can be improved.

**3. Attachment:** you will examine the influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships.

**4. Psychopathology:** you will explore definitions, explanations and treatments for disorders of the mind, brain and behaviour.

**5. Approaches in psychology:** you will scrutinise the origins of psychology and its emergence as a science.

**6. Research methods:** you will develop knowledge and skills in the use of scientific processes and techniques of data handling and analysis.

**7. Issues and debates in psychology:** you will join in the nature-nurture debate: the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour.

**8. Relationships:** you will investigate factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships such as self-disclosure; physical attractiveness.

**9. Schizophrenia:** you will scrutinise the reliability and validity in diagnosis and classification of schizophrenia.

**10. Forensic Psychology:** you will delve into offender profiling such as geographical profiling.

## Progress Assessment:

As well as ongoing formal half term assessments, you will be regularly set a variety of practice exam questions which will be completed both in class and as homework.

Teacher, self and peer-assessment will be used throughout by means of exam board mark schemes coupled with the expertise of teaching staff

## Final Exam Format:

You will sit three Exam Papers (two hours each) at the end of Year 13.

## Self Study Requirements:

For every hour spent in the classroom during a fortnightly period, you will be expected to spend the equivalent amount of time outside the classroom completing learning tasks set by teaching staff. Full details about the nature of these tasks will be available at the end of each lesson from teaching staff.

## Progression Pathways:

A level Psychology can lead to a host of exciting future prospects. Many of our students go on to study Psychology at university either as a standalone subject or it can be combined with various other subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Neuroscience and even Criminology or Marketing.

Job opportunities include becoming a Chartered Psychologist after completing advanced university courses in one of the following specialist areas: Clinical, Educational, Forensic, Health, Neuropsychology, Occupational and Sports psychology. Other career routes include: business, counselling, human resources, law enforcement, media and social work.