

QUEEN'S GATE SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGY
A-LEVEL GUIDE



EVER WONDERED...

Why humans behave the way they do? How mental health disorders develop?
How you can remember some things and not remember other things?

WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

The scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes using experiments, observations and research; an introduction to key approaches that explain why people think and act the way they do. This subject links theory and research to real world issues like memory, mental health and social influences.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The AQA specification (7182).

In the first year you will cover the following topics:

- Memory
- Attachment
- Social Influence
- Research Methods
- Approaches
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health



In the second year you will broaden your understanding of human behaviour.
You will study:

- Issue and debates
- Schizophrenia
- Relationships
- Biopsychology
- Forensic Psychology



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

A Level Psychology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you, whether you decide to go on to further study or the working world, including:

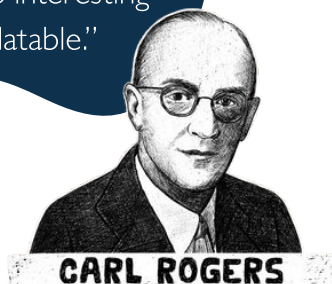
- Critical Thinking – analysing theories, evidence and research methods.
- Research skills – designing studies, collecting data and interpreting findings
- Making reasoned arguments
- Communication – writing clear arguments and applying psychology to real-life examples

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED

At A Level there are three 2-hour exams, each accounting for one third of your A Level grade. The three exams are worth 96 marks each. They consist of a mixture of short answers and extended writing questions.

“Psychology is the type of subject that is easy to relate to real life. It makes it so interesting and relatable.”

“THE CURIOUS PARADOX IS THAT WHEN I CAN ACCEPT MYSELF JUST AS I AM, THEN I CAN CHANGE” –
Carl Rogers



HOW WILL PSYCHOLOGY FIT IN WITH MY OTHER SUBJECTS?

There is no limit to the other subjects that you can take alongside Psychology. There is such breadth to the subject that it will complement just about anything. Students who study Psychology often also study Sociology, Biology, Economics, English Literature, or Philosophy.

WHAT ARE POSSIBLE DEGREE OPTIONS?

According to bestcourse4me.com, the top six degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in Psychology are:

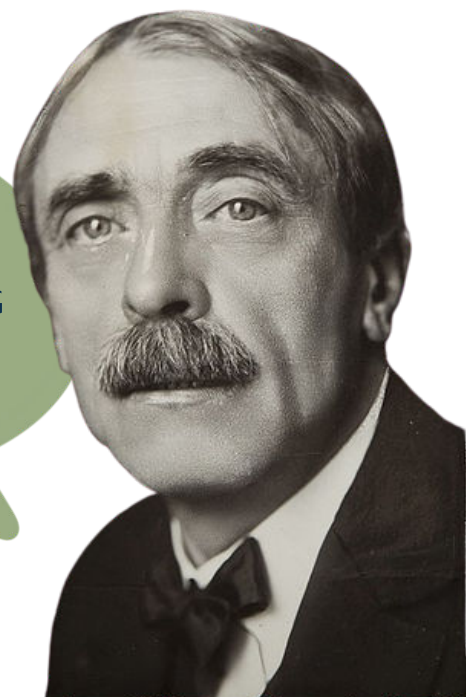
- Psychology
- Medicine
- Law
- Business and Management
- Nursing
- Criminology

WHAT ARE SOME POSSIBLE CAREER OPTIONS?

Studying Psychology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including:

- Human resources - Marketing
- Clinical Psychology - Neuropsychologist
- Social Work - Forensic Psychologist
- Policy Advisor - Researcher/Academic

'THE AIM OF PSYCHOLOGY IS
TO GIVE US A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT UNDERSTANDING
OF THE THINGS WE KNOW
BEST' Paul Valery



MODULES THAT YOU WILL COVER AND ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social Influence; Memory;; Attachment; Psychopathology.

- 2-hour exam
- 33.3% of A-Level.

Paper 2 Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research methods

- 2- hour exam
- 33.3% of A-Level.

Paper 3 · Issues and Options in Psychology: Issues & Debates in Psychology; Aggression, Schizophrenia; Cognition & Development.

- 2-hour exam
- 33.3% of A-level.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER

There is a very large amount of research to investigate and to become familiar with; therefore, a capacity to engage enthusiastically with a large amount of course material is essential. There is also a key scientific (biology) emphasis as well as mathematical and statistical component to the course. Students therefore need to be confident with this. We expect students to read our additional comprehensive reading list and will seek evidence of this through assessment. Students are also expected to make full and active use of the enrichment resources available.

If you would like to discuss the A Level Psychology specification then please do not hesitate to contact Miss Leander, Head of Psychology

tleander@queensgate.org.uk