

GCSE Psychology

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What will I learn on this course?

A: In GCSE Psychology you will:

- learn how to use specialist vocabulary, psychological concepts, terminology and conventions to engage in the process of psychological enquiry
- acquire knowledge and understanding of psychology, developing an understanding of self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena
- understand how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis
- present information, develop arguments and draw conclusions through a critical approach to psychological evidence, developing as reflective thinkers
- develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology
- develop an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society.

Students will be required to study psychological ideas, processes, techniques and procedures, through the following topics:

- development
- memory
- psychological problems
- social influence
- the brain and neuropsychology
- criminal psychology
- sleep and dreaming
- research methods.

As part of their study, students will be required to develop knowledge and understanding of the five core areas of psychology identified as:

- biological – an understanding of biological concepts within psychology, including neuroscience and genetics as contributors to behaviour
- cognitive – an understanding of thought, information and mental processing as contributors to behaviour
- social – an understanding of the social area of psychology, the impact of social and environmental factors on behaviour and the influence of groups
- developmental – an understanding of how individuals change throughout their lives, with a particular focus on childhood and how both nature and nurture can affect individuals
- individual differences – an understanding of the complex nature of human behaviour and experiences and why and how people are different.

Students will also be required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of:

- debates within psychology, including 'reductionism/holism', 'nature/nurture' and 'freewill/determinism'

Q: How is the course assessed?

A: Students will sit 2 exam papers at the end of year 11. Each paper is worth 50% of the final GCSE grade and is 1 and a half hours in length.

Exam board specification: [GCSE - Psychology \(9-1\) - J203 \(from 2017\) - OCR](#)

Specimen assessment materials: [GCSE - Psychology \(9-1\) - J203 \(from 2017\) - OCR](#)