

Course Structure

The A-Level Psychology course follows the AQA Specification (7182) and is assessed across three exam papers:

1. Introductory Topics in Psychology
 - Social Influence
 - Memory
 - Attachment
 - Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
2. Psychology in Context
 - Approaches in Psychology
 - Biopsychology
 - Research Methods (double unit)
3. Issues and Options in Psychology
 - Issues and Debates in Psychology
 - Relationships (Sept 2025 onwards)
 - Schizophrenia
 - Forensic Psychology

[Download the full course outline](#) including how content is ordered, key questions, learner outcomes, and how each topic links to our core Psychological Inquiry tenets.

View the full [AQA Psychology specification here](#).

Curriculum Impact

Assessment is used consistently and purposefully to support progress, promote retention, and embed disciplinary thinking. A range of formative and summative methods are used to ensure that learning is secure, meaningful, and responsive over time.

Assessment strategies include:

- Weekly low-stakes quizzes to strengthen retrieval and long-term memory
- Independent learning tasks with guided feedback to build autonomy and reflection
- Structured discussions and debates to support analytical thinking
- End-of-unit assessments to consolidate knowledge and identify areas for development
- Mock exams in both Year 12 and Year 13 to build exam confidence and inform intervention

These approaches promote depth, precision, and exam readiness, with regular opportunities for students to evaluate theories, interpret evidence, and communicate psychological ideas effectively.

At the end of the course, students sit three AQA exam papers:

- Paper 1 – Introductory Topics in Psychology (2 hours, 33.3%)
- Paper 2 – Psychology in Context (2 hours, 33.3%)
- Paper 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology (2 hours, 33.3%)

Student Achievement and Voice

Our students achieve excellent outcomes in A-Level Psychology, reflecting a curriculum that is ambitious, clearly sequenced, and grounded in psychological inquiry.

Students speak positively about their learning experiences:

“Studying psychology has opened new doors in my career journey.”

— Year 13 student

“Psychology is the most interesting subject I take, and it's opened my eyes to life in general.”

— Year 12 student

Careers

The broader impact of the curriculum is reflected in students’ ability to think like psychologists — to analyse behaviour, understand others, evaluate ideas, and apply research. They leave the course as confident, reflective learners with a deep understanding of the mind and behaviour, grounded in the principle of Inquiry.

Many students progress to higher education in Psychology, Criminology, Law, Sociology, Nursing, Education, and other related fields. Others go on to careers in mental health, human resources, social care, business, marketing and research.

[Further information on careers linked to A-Level Psychology can be found here.](#)