

PSYCHOLOGY GCSE

What are the key features?

The Psychology GCSE follows the AQA specification which covers 8 units of work over the two year course. Each unit includes numerous definitions, key theories and explanations as well as supporting psychological research. Students are taught deep understanding of knowledge about the human mind and behaviour as well as the biology and structure of the brain. The mental processes and behaviours that are studied are then applied to real life situations and students are required to analyse the cause and effect whilst referring to the nature or nurture debate.

The 8 units that are studied are:

Unit 1: Cognition and behaviour	Unit 2: Social context and behaviour
1. Memory	1. Social influence
2. Perception	2. Language, thought and communication
3. Development (includes GCSE Biology)	3. Brain and neuropsychology (includes GCSE Biology)
4. Research methods (includes GCSE Maths)	4. Psychological problems

How is it assessed?

This course is 100% exam.

There are 2 papers (both 50% each) with 4 sections in each paper.

These written papers are 1 hr 45 minutes in duration.

In each paper you will be required to answer the following style of questions: Multiple choice, short answers and extended writing.

What particular skills are required to succeed?

- ✓ Excellent writing skills in comprehensive and ability to make scientific notes.
- ✓ Analysis and dissection of psychological theories and scientific evidence.
- ✓ Excellent literacy skills as the course requires a lot of reading, own research and essay style classwork.
- ✓ Excellent ability in **Maths (working at grade 5 or above in Maths)**
- ✓ High level of interest in **Biology (working at grade 5 or above in Science)**

Why study this course?

- ✓ If you have a passion for a greater understanding of human cognition, mental processes and behaviours
- ✓ It provides a strong foundation to study A-Level Psychology
- ✓ If you are interested in a career in Psychology.

What equipment is required?

- ✓ It is recommended that you purchase your own copy of the AQA Psychology for GCSE Illuminate Publishing textbook (2017, Flanagan et al) although they will be provided for class use.

If I have any questions which teacher do I ask?

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