

## PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board	Edexcel
Course Entry Criteria	6 in a GCSE Biology and in GCSE English
Essential skills	<p>There are three key areas of skill competence that perspective students need to consider prior to choosing A-level psychology:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Essay writing skills:</b> as a starting point, students need to be able to write clearly to show understanding of concepts and theories as well as a developing capacity for writing critically in examining the strengths and weaknesses of said theories.</li> <li>2) <b>Numeracy skill:</b> students need to be capable of clear statistical thinking that understands ratios, percentages and trends in data, as well as extract information from tables and visual representations of data.</li> <li>3) <b>Research skill:</b> students will need to engage in wider reading outside of lessons from the beginning of the course, identifying credible sources of information and extracting key information and conclusions from their readings.</li> </ol>
Year 12	<p>In year one of the course, students will be introduced to the major approaches that have shaped modern psychology (social, cognitive, biological and learning theories), and the interactions and tensions between these approaches. Likewise, students will encounter a range of 'introductory topics' that showcase the range of psychology as a discipline and highlight the explanatory power of psychological theory for everyday experiences such as social influence and memory. Throughout these examinations, students will be introduced to the various methods of research utilised in psychology, and start to grapple with some of the major debates that run through the discipline and our understanding of human experience at large, such as nature versus nature.</p>
Year 13	<p>In year two, students will deepen through understanding of research methods by developing an appreciation for statistical analysis as a way of gauging the robustness and credibility of data; they will likewise add to their repertoire of issues and debates in psychology. Alongside this, Year13 will introduce students to new units -such as clinical psychology and criminological psychology - that builds on the theoretical and conceptual competence they developed in year one of the course.</p> <p>The course's two-year content will be assessed over three exam papers at the end of the Year13; below is a breakdown of said papers in relation to the course's content:</p> <p><b>Paper 1: Foundations in psychology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Social psychology</i></li> <li>- <i>Cognitive psychology</i></li> <li>- <i>Biological psychology</i></li> <li>- <i>Learning theories</i></li> <li>- <i>Issues and debates</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Paper 2: Applications of psychology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Clinical psychology</i></li> <li>- <i>Criminological psychology</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Paper 3: Psychological skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Research methods</i></li> <li>- <i>Synoptic review of studies</i></li> <li>- <i>Issues &amp; debates in psychology</i></li> </ul>
University requirements	<p>Typical grade requirements to study a Psychology degree are as follows: Oxbridge: A*AA, Russell Group: AAB to BBB, Non-Russell Group: ABB to CCC</p>

<p>Related courses and careers</p>	<p>Psychology occupies a unique position between the humanities and science. It connects well to social sciences such as A-level sociology in its examination of the nurturing forces that mould the individual, whilst also engaging in a robust examination of the biological mechanisms and processes that orient our being in -and experience of- the world, thus being particularly well connected to A-level biology.</p> <p>Psychology prepares students for a wide range of careers, and increasingly more sectors are recognising and integrating psychological insights into their operations. A degree in psychology would prepare you to become a psychotherapist, clinical psychologist, social worker, counsellor, educational psychologist, human resource manager, sports' &amp; performance psychologist, media and marketing consultant, to name but a few!</p>
<p>Other Details</p>	<p>The course is a diverse and fast-paced one that requires engagement and consistent independent research / reading throughout its duration. Psychology is rapidly growing discipline, and new research is constantly challenging established ideas; thus, studying psychology requires a proactive dynamic approach underpinned by genuine interest in the field and a spirit of exploration.</p>