

# Psychology



## Head of Learning

Mrs S Whitlock

## Departmental Staff

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## Exam Board

AQA A Level Psychology

## Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. If you have ever wondered why people behave as they do or if you have questioned the extent to which behaviour is determined by our genes then Psychology may be for you. Psychology is a fascinating adventure into the motivations and reasons behind a range of our behaviours.

## Course Outline

When you study Psychology, you will learn about a range of biological and psychological explanations of human behaviour. You will learn how to analyse behaviour from differing psychological perspectives. For example, in the topic of Gender, we consider whether our understanding of being male or female develops with age (Cognitive approach), are you male or female because you identify with someone who is similar (Psychodynamic approach) or are you male or female because you were born that way (Biological approach) – interestingly, we have recently considered whether the term ‘male/female’ is even relevant in our contemporary world.

The topics you will study are:

- The origins of Psychology and the major approaches (Behaviourism, Cognitive, Psychodynamic, Humanistic and Biological)
- Memory
- Social influence (obedience and conformity)
- Attachment
- Issues and debates in Psychology such as nature/nurture, determinism and free will, gender and culture
- Psychopathology (abnormality)
- Biopsychology
- Schizophrenia
- Aggression
- Gender
- Research Methods

## Where are they now?

Recent students of Psychology at CRGS have gone on to study:

- Psychology (*Lancaster, Bath, York, UCL, Queen Mary, Bangor, UEA, Manchester*)
- Biomedical Sciences (*Newcastle*)
- Spanish & German (*Warwick*)
- Law (*Manchester Met*)
- Business (*Manchester Met, Lancaster, Northumbria*)
- Criminology (*Northumbria, Salford*)
- Medicine (*Liverpool, Newcastle, UEA, Glasgow*)
- Nursing (*UCLAN, Liverpool*)
- Architecture (*Northumbria*)
- History (*Lancaster*)
- Business Management & HR (*Nottingham Trent*)
- Sociology with Criminology (*Liverpool*)
- Dentistry (*Newcastle, Belfast*)
- Computer Games Development (*Liverpool John Moores*)
- Degree Apprenticeship – Chartered Management (*Senator International*)

Throughout the whole course we look at how psychologists investigate behaviour in terms of a range of research methods. Research methods is a central component of Psychology as it enables the discipline of Psychology to use empirical evidence to help develop our understanding of human behaviour.

### Assessment

There are three examinations which are taken at the end of two years of study and they include both short and longer types of question. Your understanding of research methods will be assessed in the examination using scenario-based questions and other research methods questions are embedded in questions about the topics.

Written Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (2 hours, 33.3%)

Written Paper 2: Psychology in Context (2 hours, 33.3%)

Written Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (2 hours, 33.3%)

### Frequently Asked Questions

*Q. Is any previous knowledge required to study this subject?*

Students should have *either* 2 GCSEs in Combined Science at grade 5 or above (i.e. grade 5 or above in both) *or* grade 5 or above in GCSE Biology. You should also be confident and able in Mathematics, as much of the course involves interpreting and discussing data. You will also be expected to perform some mathematical calculations.

Students are required to meet the General Entry Requirement of a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 6 with at least GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Maths.

*Q. What opportunities are there for Extended Learning?*

In recent years, students have visited Psychology conferences and other places of interest in relation to the study of Psychology. The department intends to offer similar trips in the future.

### Exam Board Specification

AQA A Level in Psychology (7182) [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

### Notes:

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