

# Psychology

## Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of people, the mind, behaviour, and experience, offering a unique opportunity to explore key features of everyday life that are of direct relevance. By studying Psychology, you'll gain a deeper understanding of human thought and behaviour and develop a range of skills that will enable you to engage with complex issues in a nuanced and informed way. Psychologists and psychological research have a significant impact on public life, particularly in areas such as education, health, and the economy.

## Entry requirements

You don't need any prior knowledge of psychology to start the A Level course, but you should have a solid complement of GCSEs, including a Grade 6 in a science subject and a Grade 5 in Mathematics. You should also have a good grasp of the English language, as essay writing is a key component of the course. Most importantly, you should have a genuine curiosity about human thought and behaviour.

## Course content

Some of the topics studied include:

- Social Psychology, focusing on social interactions and relationships
- Cognitive Psychology, exploring internal mental processes and behaviours like perception and intelligence
- Developmental Psychology, considering how people develop and change throughout their lives
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health, studying the causes of mental disorders and potential therapies
- Biological Psychology, examining the role of evolutionary forces and genetics in behaviour

## Relevance

Psychology is a highly relevant subject in the modern world, as it seeks to understand human thought and behaviour, and develop evidence-based solutions to real world problems. By studying Psychology, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the complex issues that shape our lives, from mental health and wellbeing to social relationships and cognitive development.

## Career versatility

Studying Psychology can lead to a wide range of career opportunities, including roles in health and caring professions, management, education, criminology, marketing, and advertising, as well as supporting applications for science-based and humanities degree courses. By developing transferable

skills like critical thinking, research design, and data analysis, you'll be well-equipped to succeed in a variety of careers that require a nuanced understanding of human thought and behaviour.

### Academic flexibility and skills developed:

Psychology pairs well with a range of subjects, including Biology and Sociology, and develops key skills such as critical thinking, research design, and data analysis. By studying Psychology, you'll learn to evaluate conflicting theories and research findings, develop practical research skills, and engage with complex issues in a nuanced and informed way, making you a strong candidate for a variety of academic and professional pursuits.