



**For a future
without limits**
Ernest Bevin Sixth Form

A Level - Psychology

What is Psychology?

What is more important, nature or nurture?

What is intelligence and why do we care?

What makes a person more predisposed to psychotic or criminal tendencies?

Why do some people suffer from prosopagnosia – the inability to ‘see’ faces?

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes.

Essentially, psychology helps society because it can explain why people act the way they do. Many of the primary modern applications for psychology revolve around protecting people from emotional and physical harm. It is an exciting and dynamic subject which stimulates lots of discussion and debate.



What will you study?

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology (Social Influence, Memory, Attachment)

Paper 2: Psychology in context (Approaches, Psychopathology, Research Methods)

Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology (Issues & Debates, Gender, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology)

Assessment

The course is assessed through three 2-hour examination papers in Year 13. Each paper is of equal weighting and contains a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

Assessments

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology

Assessed

- * written exam : 2 hours
- * 96 marks in total
- * 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- * section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing 24 marks
- * section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing 24 marks
- * section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing 24 marks
- * section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing 24 marks

Paper 2: Psychology in context

Assessed

- * written exam : 2 hours
- * 96 marks in total
- * 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- * section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing 24 marks
- * section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing 24 marks
- * section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing 48 marks

Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology

Assessed

- * written exam : 2 hours
- * 96 marks in total
- * 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- * section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing 24 marks
- * section B: one topic from option 1, 9-11 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- * section C: one topic from option 2, 12-14 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
- * section D: one topic from option 3, 15-17 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing 24 marks

Getting ready to start your A Level Psychology course

Task1: BBC podcast – [“All in the Mind”](#) - Are you interested in why yawns are catching? Or how memories are formed? Perhaps you would like to know more about conspiracy theories – to believe or not to believe? Find an episode that piques your interest, listen and write a 500 word review on the episode. Carry out some of your own research around your topic to add to the review. Make sure you reference any books, articles or websites you use!

Task2: Simple DIY Memory Experiment - Before you carry out this simple memory experiment, research and answer the following questions: On average, how many words can a person remember? Can other factors such as gender and age have an impact on memory? What strategies might improve memorisation? Next, complete the simple memory experiment on yourself, and as many different people as possible. Finally, analyse the data – on average, how many words were remembered? Were there any age differences? Gender differences? What part of the list was remembered the most – the words at the beginning or end of the list? Write an analysis of your results.

Task3: Research the 6 main approaches in psychology – Behaviourism, psychodynamic, humanistic, social learning theory, biological and cognitive. Create an A4 or A5 summary of each, using NO WORDS – it must be pictorial – a collage, drawings, symbols, images (words can ONLY be used if you cut out individual letters!) Make it CREATIVE 😊

Task4: TED talks are a great way to hear from leading experts in the vast field of psychology: [Psychology Ted Talks](#) - click select one talk that piques your interest and write a 250 summary of the talk – what you learnt and what is your opinion on the topic?

EXTENSION TASK: Find out more about the Psychology course by reading the Year 1 text book: [Illuminate Text Book](#).