

# Psychology – AQA GCSE

Students can take GCSE Psychology as part of their options choices during year 8, students will have three lessons each week during a three-year period. The course commences in the autumn term of Year 9 and finishes in the Summer term of Year 11. Teachers will endeavour to cover most if not all the material in Years 9 and 10 before revisiting and revising in Year 11. We hope that this will mean that all students are more than sufficiently confident and prepared for their summer exam.

The course consists of two components, which are examined in two separate examinations:

- 1) Cognition and behaviour
- 2) Social context and behaviour

The specification is designed to broaden candidates understanding of how the human brain develops and works, additionally students will look a cognitive development in children and the studies/psychological experiments which provide the basis for our understanding. Pupils are required to express an informed and justified personal viewpoint on the studies. In all topics students are strongly encouraged to articulate their own viewpoint.

**Syllabus Overview / Assessment Criteria** - 100% Examination sat at the end of Year 11

**Curriculum Map / Areas of Study** - All students begin their GCSE course in the autumn term of Year 9 and finish their course in the summer term of Year 11 (3 year course). Each student will have Psychology for two lesson each week.

**Set arrangements** – mixed ability

Assessment - We assess using an actual GCSE exam paper section (25 marks) and one extra question, after every taught module (roughly every 7 weeks). Every time students revise they should revise the topic just learnt and the topic previous to that one. Every assessment will also contain a question from a different unit.

Assessments are graded and students are given a relevant response task to complete after they have received their grade.

**Students will study the following topics as part of their course...**

Year 1	Topic	Brief summary	Cognition and behaviour
Autumn Term	Memory	Students will be required to have a basic understanding of the nature of memory. Students will explore the studies based on how we remember, which unify all Christians such as the story of creation as outlined in Genesis and the Pentecost as an example of divine revelation of the Holy Spirit. Finally, students will explore what beliefs regarding life after death and the guidance that is given in the Bible for attaining salvation.	
Spring Term 1	Perception	Students will explore the difference between sensation and perception. Does The world presents sufficient information for direct perception without inference? In other words, when we see a small tree in the distance, do our senses tell us as young child that the tree is small because it is far away or do we just think it is small and we eventually learn and experience truth? Are there any other visual cues that we should look for when making sense of the world around us?  We will look at visual illusions and explanations for visual illusions. Are visual illusion sufficient evidence to suggest that our senses are not enough to perceive the world accurately?	
Spring Term 2	Development of the Brain (Cognitive development)	Students will develop a basic understanding of the brain before exploring how children’s brains develop. The understanding of cognitive development in children is crucial to	

		understanding how children can learn best. Is cognitive development happening in the womb, in other words. Is the baby learning basic behaviour before it is born?
<b>Summer Term</b>	Research Methods	These are the different methods Psychologist have used to record the results of their findings, often data. Students will need to have an understanding of how results were recorded and what data show. This is not a distinct unit in itself, the skills acquired will be applied in all other units.

<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Brief summary</b>	<b>Social context and behaviour</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	1. Social influence	Students will why people conform and why behavior can be radically different when in a group. Student will explore obedience and the factors that ultimately make us choose to be obedient. Students will explore the bystander principle and why people choose not to intervene when another is suffering in addition we will look at the reasons for anti-social behavior.	
<b>Spring term</b>	2. Language, thought and communication	Students will explore the differences between human and animal communication and the factors that make human communication unique from animals. We will study the power of non-verbal communication and how we can say something quite powerful without saying anything! Finally, we will discuss whether Non-verbal communication is learnt behavior or whether it is an innate product that could be evolving to help us thrive.	
<b>Summer term</b>	3. Brain and neuropsychology	CT, PET and fMRI scans have made it possible for us to study the brain in non-intrusive way, in other words we don't have to hurt anybody! Students will focus on how the structure and function of the brain relates to behaviour and how we actually think (cognition).  We will explore the automatic nervous system and why a fight or flight response is so important for human survival.  Final we will gain a basic understanding of how strokes or injury can affect motor abilities and behaviour.	
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Topic</b>		
<b>Autumn term</b>	4. Psychological problems	Students will explore the various cultural attitudes to mental health, the stigma that remains. We will look at how mental health has impacted on individual's lives, eg damage to relationships, difficulties coping with day to day life, negative impact on physical wellbeing. We will focus on the differences between unipolar and bipolar and study symptoms.	
<b>Spring term</b>	Revision	It is anticipated that colleagues will finish promptly to maximize the amount of time students will have for revision and going over any missed work.	

## Personnel Information



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