



BEECHEN CLIFF

# A-Level Psychology

Head of Psychology - Miss Blaskiewicz

Aspiration Compassion Independence Respect



AO1 = description

AO2 = application

AO3 = evaluation

RM questions may require any skills but mainly AO2.

Minimum 25% RM questions across the papers

Including minimum of 10% Maths skills

## Assessments

### Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology

#### What's assessed

Compulsory content 1–4 above

#### 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 D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks

### Paper 2: Psychology in context

#### What's assessed

Compulsory content 5–7 above

#### 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

#### What's assessed

Compulsory content 8 above  
Optional content, one from option 1, 9–11, one from option 2, 12–14, one from option 3, 15–17 above

#### 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





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# Two Year A-Level

*Paper 1 each section 24 marks.  
Paper 2 section C is 48 marks.  
All questions are compulsory.*

## **Paper 1 Introductory Topics**

A: Social influence

B: Memory

C: Attachment

D: Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

## **Paper 2 Psychology in Context**

A: Approaches

B: Biopsychology

C: Research methods

## **Paper 2: Extra topics for A level**

**Approaches:** The psychodynamic and humanistic approaches, plus a comparison of all approaches.

**Biopsychology:** Localisation of function in the brain, ways of studying the brain

**Research methods:** Content analysis, case studies, reliability, validity, features of science, reporting psychological investigations, levels of measurement, probability and significance, choosing inferential tests.

## **Paper 3: Issues & Options in Psychology**

*Each section is 24 marks.*

Compulsory A: Issues and debates in Psychology

Select one B: **Cognition and Development** (Relationships, Gender)

Select one C: **Schizophrenia** (Eating Behaviours, Stress)

Select one D: **Forensic Psychology** (Aggression, Addiction)

Aspiration      Compassion      Independence      Respect



## GCSE's:

- Grade 6s in Combined Sciences (or 6 in Biology)
- Grade 6 in English Language or Grade 6 in English Literature

## Skills and Aptitudes:

- Psychology is a science and the course requires rigour - there is a lot of essay writing and independent reading involved.
- It is not a 'soft/easy subject' or 'soft science'





## Learning Activities:

- Assessment throughout the year will be a mix of past paper questions, in class and online quizzes and whiteboard desk work e.g. recall, revision and practice questions
- Google Classroom is used as the schools VLE
- Across the 2 years, students will have 4 formal mock assessments and to prepare for their Summer examinations. Students will also sit 2 assessments per term (this includes formal exams)



**AQA:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/specification-at-a-glance>

**Tutor2u:**

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>



**14 students went on to study variations of Psychology courses at 12 different University in 2025**

**Including:**

**Psychology, Psychology with a Placement Year,  
Psychology with Criminology, Education Studies -  
Psychology, Criminology, Sports and Exercise Psychology**

**Universities**

**Durham, Plymouth, Birmingham, Reading, Cardiff, Leeds,  
Sussex, UWE Bristol, Brunel, Loughborough, Exeter,  
Portsmouth**



**Sports Psychologists** study the psychological factors that affect participants' performance during sport, advising athletes on how they can enhance their performance.



**Human Factors Psychologists** study the way humans interact with the world around them, applying the principles of psychology to enhance product design and work environments, e.g. the Human Factors Psychologist at Google works on creating new fonts to make the online experience more enjoyable.

**Psychotherapists** help people overcome a variety of different psychological and emotional issues.

**Recruitment Consultants** help to meet the recruitment needs for a range of companies by advertising vacancies, researching the suitability of applicants and putting forward candidates for interview.

**Market Researchers** collect and analyse data which is used by companies to help them better tailor their products and services to their customers' needs.



# Top 10 Careers with Psychology

**Social Researchers** conduct research into areas such as crime, unemployment and migration, the results of which are used to assess the effectiveness of existing policy or to inform the creation of new policies.



**Forensic Psychologists** perform a variety of roles throughout the judicial and penal systems, from assessing offenders to informing institutional policy.



**Advertising Account Executives** research, plan and create advertising campaigns in a variety of different media to promote a range of products and services.

**Educational Psychologists** assess the needs of children who are experiencing behavioural and learning difficulties at school, and recommend appropriate treatment.

**Public Relations Officers** manage client reputations through a variety of media communications, including press releases, social media and public events.