

KS4 Curriculum handbook subject page

Subject: GCSE Psychology

Syllabus: AQA (8182)

What will I learn?

Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour

Students will be expected to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes, procedures and theories in relation to the specified Paper 1 content
- apply psychological knowledge and understanding of the specified Paper 1 content in a range of contexts
- analyse and evaluate psychological ideas, information, processes and procedures in relation to the specified Paper 1 content and make judgements, draw conclusions and produce developments or refinements of psychological procedures based on their reasoning and synthesis of skills
- evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness
- show how psychological knowledge and ideas change over time and how these inform our understanding of behaviour
- demonstrate the contribution of psychology to an understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity
- develop an understanding of the interrelationships between the core areas of psychology
- show how the studies for topics relate to the associated theory.

Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour

Students will be expected to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes, procedures and theories in relation to the specified Paper 2 content
- apply psychological knowledge and understanding of the specified Paper 2 content in a range of contexts
- analyse and evaluate psychological ideas, information, processes and procedures in relation to the specified Paper 2 content and make judgements, draw conclusions and produce developments or refinements of psychological procedures based on their reasoning and synthesis of skills
- evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness
- show how psychological knowledge and ideas change over time and how these inform our understanding of behaviour
- demonstrate the contribution of psychology to an understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity
- develop an understanding of the interrelationships between the core areas of psychology
- show how the studies for topics relate to the associated theory.

Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills will be assessed across all topic areas in Paper 1 and 2. These skills should be developed by studying the specification content and through ethical, practical research activities, involving:

- designing research
- conducting research

- analysing and interpreting data.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research methods

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour

- Social influence
- Language, thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

How will this prepare me for my next steps?

GCSE Psychology is the study of human behaviour and thinking and this qualification prepares students for their next steps after GCSE in a number of different ways. It allows students to understand research and how research evidence can be applied in the real world to improve the quality of life, particularly those who are suffering. Students develop their analytical thinking and learn how research can be evaluated highlighting the strengths and limitations. The study of research methods provides students with a good foundation that will support their studies at A Level, not only in psychology, but in a number of different subject areas. Many of the topics taught at GCSE level are also found in the A level specification, therefore provides GCSE students with the foundation knowledge needed to go on and study the subject in more depth at A Level and beyond.

Contribution to UTC/Studio aims

Throughout the GCSE course students will have opportunities to attend trips where they can enhance their learning experience and see psychology in the real world and the impact the subject has had and can have in the future. Our annual Auschwitz trip allows students the opportunity to understand the social influence topic much more effectively than they could do in the classroom. Students also have the opportunity to hear from industry experts in our masterclass events. There are so many branches of psychology we feel it is important for our students to understand as many branches as possible to guide them towards careers they may be interested in entering into in the future. This includes masterclasses from clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, therapists and forensic psychologists.

Careers/job ideas

Jobs directly related to a psychology degree include:

- Clinical Psychologist
- Counselling psychologist
- Educational Psychologist
- Forensic psychologist
- Teacher
- Health psychologist
- High Intensity Therapist
- Occupational Psychologist
- Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner
- Sport and Exercise Psychologist

Jobs where a psychology degree would be useful include:

- Advice Worker
- Careers Adviser
- Counsellor
- Detective
- Human Resources Offices
- Life Coach
- Market Researcher
- Play Therapist
- Psychotherapist