

Psychology

A level

What will I study and learn?

Psychology is taught as a linear course with the A level exam sat at the end of the second year.

Year 1

Introduction into psychology

Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Social Influence and Research Methods

In this module you will cover aspects of memory and eyewitness testimony; the formation of attachments between mother and infant; issues relating to conformity and obedience; and finally, psychopathology, which includes biological and psychological causes of abnormality, including appropriate treatments. You will also cover descriptive statistics.

Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology and Research Methods

You will look at the main approaches in psychology, including biopsychology, which focuses on the function of the brain, and the ethical and methodological issues involved in carrying out psychological studies and research, including the use of statistical tests.

Year 2

Issues and Options in Psychology: Issues and Debates in Psychology, Stress, Aggression and Gender

You will look at the major issues and debates in psychology, as well as stress, including how the body responds to stress, sources of stress and how to manage stress., and you will focus on what makes us aggressive. Finally, you will explore the difference between gender and sex, how gender identity develops and gender dysphoria.

How will I be assessed?

Examinations are held at the end of the second year of study. There will be three written papers, each lasting two hours, which are equally weighted towards your final mark. Questions will include compulsory multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, applied questions and extended writing.

A level/IB

During the course you will have the opportunity to go on a number of trips as part of the Psychology course. a highlight being in the second year where you will attend a category C prison and spend the day touring and speaking to the forensic psychology team, as well as gaining a deeper understanding about how a prison is run.

Entry requirements

You should be proficient in English, Maths and Science, with a recommended grade 6 in at least one of English or Mathematics.



IB

What will I study and learn?

The IB Psychology syllabus has three components: Core, Options and the Internal Assessment.

Core: Approaches to understanding behaviour

An introduction to the approaches of researching behaviour and the three approaches to understanding behaviour: the biological approach, the cognitive approach, and the sociocultural approach.

Options: Applied psychology units

The contribution and the interaction of the above three approaches can be best understood through the options. There are four options in the course (HL students will study two while those taking SL will study one), which focus on areas of applied psychology: abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, health psychology, and psychology of human relationships.

How will I be assessed?

Internal assessment

All students will develop their psychology practical skills by carrying out the internal assessment; the requirements for this are the same for both the HL and the SL courses. You will investigate a published study, theory or model relevant to your learning in psychology by conducting an experimental investigation and reporting the findings.

External assessment (5 hours)

Paper 1 (40%)	Paper 2 (20%)	Paper 3 (20%)
2 hours	2 hours	1 hour
<p>Section A: Three short-answer questions on the core approaches to psychology (27 marks)</p> <p>Section B: One essay from a choice of three on the biological, cognitive and sociocultural approaches to behaviour. One, two or all of the essays will reference the additional HL topic (22 marks).</p>	Two questions; one from a choice of three on each of two options (44 marks).	Three short-answer questions from a list of six static questions on approaches to research (24 marks).

Internal assessment (20 hours)

This component is internally assessed by the teacher, and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

Experimental study (20%)

A report on an experimental study undertaken by the student (22 marks).

Want to know more?

Mrs Laila Dilley
Head of Psychology
ldilley@bgs.bristol.sch.uk

Exam Board:
www.aqa.org.uk
www.ibo.org

“Many of the topics covered in Psychology are relatable to our everyday lives. This is what makes it such a relevant and interesting subject to study, as well as the fact that it is a new and intriguing subject to take in the Sixth Form. The teachers offer valuable feedback for your work and always make time for you.

Millie Henderson, OB 2023
Courses: Economics, Psychology and History