



Psychology GCSE

Ofsted said: "Pupils have many subjects to choose from, so everyone gets a chance to shine." February 2022

PSYCHOLOGY GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Candidates will pursue a course leading to the award of a GCSE 9-1 qualification at the end of Year 11.

The GCSE requires students to complete two units of work that are examined at the end of Year 11 in two written exams.

UNITS:

Unit 1: Cognition and Behaviour

Written examination – 1 hour 45 min - 50%

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research Methods

Unit 2: Social context and behaviour

Written examination – 1 hour 45 min - 50%

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

Both exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes, procedures and theories in relation to the paper content.

Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills, also form a key part of pupils' learning in Psychology. Mathematical skills form 10% of the marks available.

SHOULD MY CHILD STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Pupils will learn about what motivates, challenges or changes us and how this is used to help us tackle personal and social problems. Students with a strong foundation in English, maths and science would be most equipped for success on this course. However, the course is accessible to all students who have a keen interest in psychology and are willing to complete the necessary work outside of the classroom to facilitate excellent progress within the subject.

What will my child gain from psychology?

Pupils studying psychology will hone their analytical and organisational skills and learn about scientific research methods, including collecting and working with data. Learning about human behaviour can also help to build communication skills and improve their teamwork and leadership skills. Studying Psychology enables pupils to develop greater confidence in how to resolve conflict and makes sense of the world around them. Links with mathematics and biology will further deepen pupils' understanding in those areas and articulating considered responses and building structured written arguments develops important literacy skills.

Example of an extended writing question:

Use your knowledge of **both** the reductionist **and** the holistic perspectives to compare aversion therapy with self-management programmes. (9 marks)

Where will psychology take my child?

GCSE psychology provides an excellent foundation for A level Psychology, although not a requirement to study at that level. People with skills in psychology are sought after in business, management, teaching, research, sport, social work and careers in medicine, healthcare and law.

Further reading/ suggested revision materials:

Subject specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182>

Books

AQA Psychology for GCSE – Cara Flanagan – Illuminate Publishing
AQA GCSE 9-1 Psychology Revision Guide - Collins

Websites

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

<https://www.primrosekittenacademy.com/courses>

<https://psychboost.com/gcse/>

<https://learndojo.org/gcse/aqa-psychology/>

For further information, please contact:

Head of Psychology:

Miss Claire Johnstone, BSc (Hons), PGCE
johnstonec@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Goldington Academy

Haylands Way

Bedford

MK41 9BX

Principal: Mr F Galbraith

Tel: (01234) 261516

Email: office@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Website: www.goldington.beds.sch.uk



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