



# PSYCHOLOGY

## AQA PSYCHOLOGY (Specification A) 2180

### What is Psychology?

Psychology is an exploration into the most complex machine on Earth – the human mind. Literally defined, Psychology is the “Scientific study of the mind and behaviour” and during your A Level course you will analyse a variety of human and animal behaviour, critically considering a range of stimulating theories and research. You will also have the opportunity to conduct your own Psychological research which will give you a greater understanding of the field of Psychology.



### Is Psychology right for me?

If you've ever considered why people behave as they do, then Psychology could be the perfect subject for you! An example of some of the questions you will examine include:

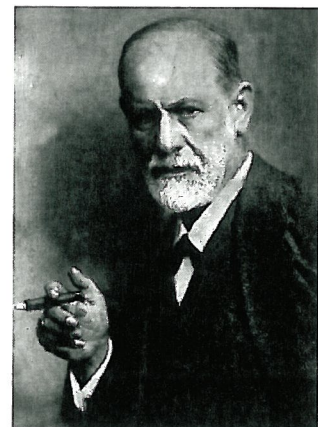
- Where do mental illnesses come from and how can we treat them?
- What makes people commit crimes?
- Are we a product of our genes or our environment?
- How can we reduce stress?
- What is our memory and how does it work?

Teaching involves a variety of methods, including lectures, discussions, small group activities, debates, videos and independent learning tasks. As your A level is assessed entirely through external examinations, you will also spend time developing your exam skills and critical essay writing.

### What Can I Do With an A Level in Psychology?

Psychology develops literacy and numeracy skills and its status as a scientific discipline means it is a subject that serves as a good foundation for a number of Degree courses. Beyond this, the diverse nature of Psychology means that it is an attractive qualification for many career paths, including education, business, clinical and medical.

At A Level, Psychology combines well with both the traditional sciences as well as arts and humanities subjects.



Sigmund Freud

## What will I study in Psychology at A level?

The Psychology course is split into 4 units – 2 AS Units which are studied in the first year and 2 A2 units which are studied in the second year. All units are assessed by external examinations.

### AS

#### **Unit 1 (PSYA1): Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods**

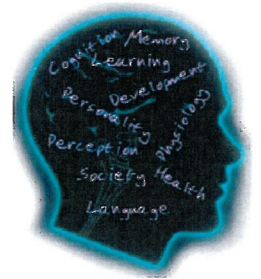
*1 ½ hour written exam*

This unit introduces Cognitive and Developmental Psychology and focuses on human memory and attachment. You will also cover the key features of research methodology.

#### **Unit 2 (PSYA2): Biological Psychology, Social Psychology, and Individual Differences**

*1 ½ hour written exam*

Here you will consider research and theories relating to stress, obedience, conformity and the diagnosis, classification, understanding and treatment of mental illnesses.



### A2

#### **Unit 3 (PSYA3): Topics in Psychology**

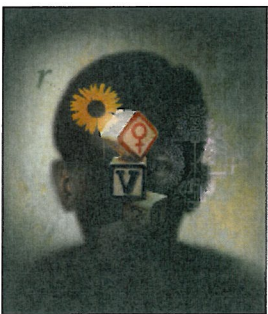
*1 ½ hour written exam*

This unit involves a detailed exploration of key aspects of human behaviour, including aggression and relationships.

#### **Unit 4 (PSYA4): Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods**

*2 hour written exam*

Here you will develop your understanding of Psychological Research Methods and look in detail at the diagnostic classification, explanations and therapies for Schizophrenia. You will also look at one contemporary application of Psychology, such as anomalistic (paranormal) Psychology.



Further information can be found by visiting the AQA website at

[http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/science/psychology\\_a\\_overview.php](http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/science/psychology_a_overview.php)