



**Bloxham School**

# Psychology

A Level



# What is Psychology?



Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour, from communication and memory to thought and emotion.

It's about understanding what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us address many of the problems and issues in society today.

(BPS, 2000)



# Why choose this subject?

- These qualifications offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology.
- Have you ever wondered whether you were born with your personality?
- Whether aggressive behaviour can be eliminated in society?
- Why we soon forget facts we have memorised for a test?

These, and many other questions about all aspects of human behaviour and experience, are studied by psychologists.



# What skills will I develop?



- Critical analysis
- Independent thinking
- Research

By the end of the A Level you will have knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues.

You will be able to analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods.

You will be able to evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness.

# The specification



## AS and first year of A-level

### Subject content

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

## Second year of A-level

### Compulsory content

- Issues and debates in psychology

### Optional content

#### Option one

- Relationships
- Gender
- Cognition and development

#### Option two

- Schizophrenia
- Eating behaviour
- Stress

#### Option three

- Aggression
- Forensic psychology
- Addiction

# What does the course involve?



Flipped learning – pre-reading prior to each lesson

After each lesson – consolidating your knowledge and producing revision notes

Weekly prep – checking knowledge by working on exam questions

Termly tests



# Examination structure



## A-level



| Component                                  | Maximum raw mark | Scaling factor     | Maximum scaled mark |
|--|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology | 96               | x1                 | 96                  |
| Paper 2: Psychology in Context             | 96               | x1                 | 96                  |
| Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology  | 96               | x1                 | 96                  |
|  |                  | Total scaled mark: | 288                 |

# What do we expect from candidates?



## English – essay writing skills

- Extended questions of 16-marks (max)
- Up to 60% of possible exam marks to be gained may come from extended writing







# What do we expect from candidates?

## Maths – mathematical skills

- Around 10% of the overall assessment in psychology will be mathematical skills
- 25 – 30% research methods
- Therefore around 35 - 40% of the possible marks to be gained are probably coming from research methods/maths skills

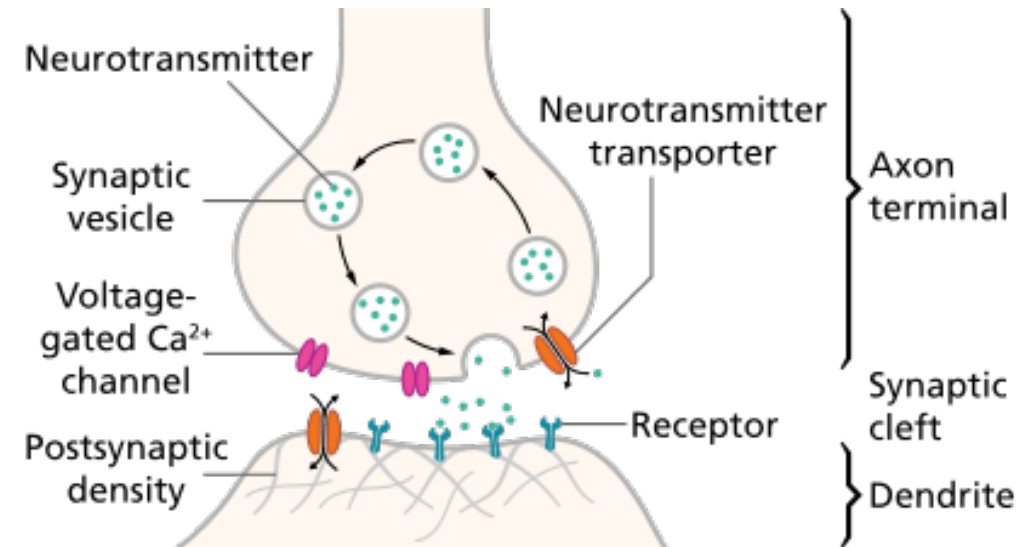
| <i>Level of significance for two-tailed test</i> |             |              |             |              |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|  | <b>0.10</b> | <b>0.05</b>  | <b>0.02</b> | <b>0.01</b>  |
| <i>Level of significance for one-tailed test</i> |             |              |             |              |
| <b>N</b>   | <b>0.05</b> | <b>0.025</b> | <b>0.01</b> | <b>0.005</b> |
| 5  | 0           | —            | —           | —            |
| 6  | 0           | 0            | —           | —            |
| 7  | 0           | 0            | 0           | —            |
| 8  | 1           | 0            | 0           | 0            |
| 9  | 1           | 1            | 0           | 0            |
| 10   | 1           | 1            | 0           | 0            |
| 11   | 2           | 1            | 1           | 0            |

# What do we expect from candidates?



## Science – Biological Psychology

- Biopsychology Topic (1/12 of course)
- Biological explanations for Depression
- Biological explanations for Schizophrenia



# With which subjects can it be combined?



- Some overlaps with Biology, Business and PE
- Psychology complements most subjects - Arts, Mathematics, Sciences, Humanities etc.

# Higher Education and Careers?



Careers directly related to Psychology Graduates



The  
British  
Psychological  
Society

Chartered Psychologist

- Clinical psychologist
- Counselling psychologist
- Education mental health practitioner
- Educational psychologist
- Forensic psychologist
- Further education teacher
- Health psychologist
- High intensity therapist
- Occupational psychologist
- Psychological wellbeing practitioner
- Sport and exercise psychologist

# Careers where a psychology degree would be useful



- Market Researchers
- Neuroscientist
- Psychotherapist
- Social Researcher
- Policy Officer

# Why not try the subject before you start?

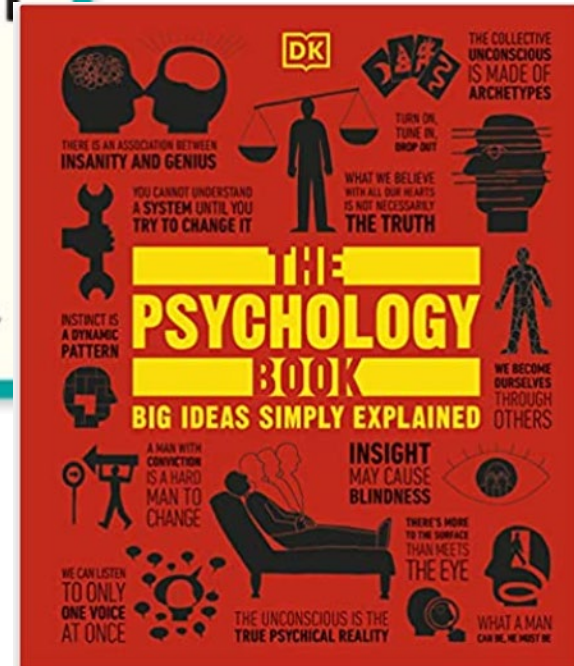
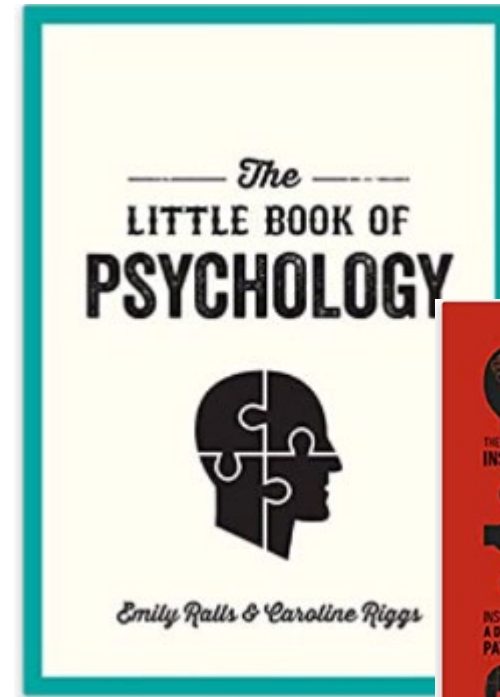


Subjects ▾ Courses ▾ Using FutureLearn ▾

Psychology & Mental Health

## Psychology Courses

Explore the science of psychology with online courses exploring everything from the inner-workings of the mind to the importance of cognition at work.



# Teaching Staff

- Mr Greatorex – Sanderson
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Mr Webber

