



# A Level Psychology

Mrs. Richardson  
Head of Social Sciences  
ECO4

A human brain is shown in a light tan color, positioned on the left side of the frame. Overlaid on the brain and extending across the top of the image is a complex, glowing blue neural network or circuitry. The background is a dark blue gradient with faint grid lines and light blue dots, suggesting a digital or scientific theme.

# What is psychology?

- Psychology is the scientific study of human mind and behaviour
- Psychology is a science and psychologists study human behaviour by observing, measuring and testing, then arriving at conclusions that are rooted in sound scientific methodology.



# Topics studied: Year 12

Topic area	Areas explored
Memory	Differences between short-term and long-term memory, models of memory, forgetting, eyewitness testimony
Attachment	Theories of attachment, role of the father, attachment types, Romanian orphans
Social influence	Conformity, obedience to authority, minority influence and social change
Approaches	Biological approach, learning theories, cognitive approach, psychodynamic approach & humanistic approach
Psychopathology	Definitions of abnormality, phobias, depression & OCD
Biopsychology (Year1)	Nervous system, endocrine system, neurons and synaptic transmission and the fight & flight response
Research methods	How psychologists conduct psychological research including experiments, observations, correlations, interviews and questionnaires

# Topics studied: Year 13



Topic area	Areas explored
Relationships	Evolutionary explanations of partner preference, formation of attraction, maintenance & breakdown of relationships, celebrity worship and virtual relationships
Schizophrenia	Clinical characteristics of schizophrenia. Explaining and treating schizophrenia
Addiction	Risk factors for addiction, explanations of nicotine addiction, explanations for gambling addiction & reducing addiction.
Issues and debates	Free will versus determinism, nature vs nurture debate, issues of gender and cultural bias in psychology.
Biopsychology (year 2)	The brain including localisation of function, brain plasticity, recovery after injury, ways of studying the brain and biological rhythms
Research methods	Statistical testing, data handling and analysis, design and reporting of psychological investigations



# Assessment

- 100% exam
- 3 exams (each 2 hours long)
- Combination of extended writing questions and short answer questions



# Entry requirements

At least 9-4 grades

Minimum average of 4.5

At least 5 in Mathematics and 5-5 in Science

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# Why psychology?

- Interesting
- Applicable to real life
- Opens doors to many different careers
- Accepted by universities as a science



Questions?