

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

2025-26



THE
PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

Course Outline

Psychologists seek to reveal underlying laws to explain behaviour and experience and employ rigorous research methods to gather evidence to support their theories. First year A Level pupils will study a range of topics that give them a flavour of the scope of Psychology: social influence, attachment, psychopathology, memory and biopsychology. They will also look at the different approaches Psychologists use to explain human behaviour and the research methods they use to study it. In Year 13, students will study three further topics, which will be chosen based on the cohort's interests and strengths. Finally, students will consider the bigger 'issues and debates' in Psychology. For instance, they will consider nature vs nurture and the roles that gender and culture play in the study of Psychology.

A Level External Assessment

A Level Psychology will be assessed through three exam papers, each two hours in length. These papers are completed at the end of the two-year course.

- Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology
- Paper 2: Psychology in context
- Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology

Entry Requirements

At least a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and a 6 in at least one of the following subjects GCSE English and/or one of the Sciences (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or Combined Science).

Skills Required and Developed

Pupils likely to excel in Psychology have a good grounding in scientific procedure, but an open mind to the possibility of multiple interpretations and approaches. They can analyse data and critically piece together an argument based on a range of apparently conflicting research.

Psychology students will develop skills in experimental design and written communication. Perhaps more importantly, they will also develop a keen sense of empathy and understanding, both for themselves and for others.

Beyond the Classroom

We run a variety of enrichment events throughout the year, including visiting speakers, notably our neuroscience and criminal psychology days.

University Courses and Professions that require the Subject

Since Psychology sits as a bridge between science and humanity, it is a very valuable subject to universities and employers. The skills developed during the course complement any other A Level and prepare students for any undergraduate study. A psychological understanding of human behaviour is useful for any career that designs for, sells to, or works with people – so pretty much anything!



More Information

Contact our Head of Psychology, Miss S Tutton:

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You can also find more information on the exam board's website: www.aqa.org.uk