

A Level in Psychology

Location	Altrincham Campus
Course Type	College 16-18
Department	A Levels
Start Date	Monday 1st September 2025
Course Code	AFQ-AL3L-1115

Course Overview

Have you ever wondered why criminals kill or how people with mental health disorders are treated? Through studying Psychology, you will gain an understanding of how the mind works and why people behave in the way that they do. You will study the individual and explain their behaviour using a variety of approaches such as Cognitive Psychology, which looks at how we all process information differently, or Biological Psychology which focuses on the influence of genes and the central nervous system on our behaviour.

During the first year, you will also study the different research methods these approaches utilise to gather information about human behaviour. There are a variety of compulsory topics including how memory works, how our childhood affects our relationships in later life, and the effect the social world has on the way we behave. Psychology is now one of the preferred A levels for a number of medical and nursing schools.

All students follow the AQA A Level Psychology specification.

Course Requirements

PLEASE NOTE - YOU MUST APPLY FOR 3 A LEVELS

Standard A Level entry requirements: 5 x GCSE grade 5's or above (must include Maths and English Language). However, certain subjects may have additional entry criteria, which can be found below:

Additional Entry Requirements:

A Level Psychology will require a grade 6 in a GCSE Science-related subject.

What You Will Learn

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour, particularly what it is that makes people behave in the way they do. It can provide theories and suggestions, practical ways of explaining, understanding, and solutions for behaviour.

Assessment

Students are assessed through three papers at the end of the 2-year course:

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology (33.33% of A Level grade)

Paper 2: Psychology in context (33.33% of A Level grade)

Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology (33.33% of A Level grade)

Progression

A large number of students go on to study Psychology or a related subject at university. There are a broad number of career paths: Counselling, Education Psychologist, Forensic Psychologist, Advertising, Management and many more.

Career Options

There are a broad number of career paths, such as Counselling, Education Psychologist, Forensic Psychologist, and more. Also, Psychology is relevant and useful for careers that are largely people-based, such as advertising, business, social work etc. Many of the skills developed through studying psychology are also largely transferable into a law setting.

Mandatory Units

Compulsory content:

Social influence

Memory

Attachment

Psychopathology

Approaches in Psychology

Biopsychology

Research methods

Issues and debates in Psychology

Optional units chosen:

1 - Gender

2 - Schizophrenia

3 - Forensic psychology

Contact Details

For further information please contact T: 0161 886 7070 or E: info@trafford.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.