

# Psychology

Year 11 information  
Mrs Ledward



# What Psychology is...

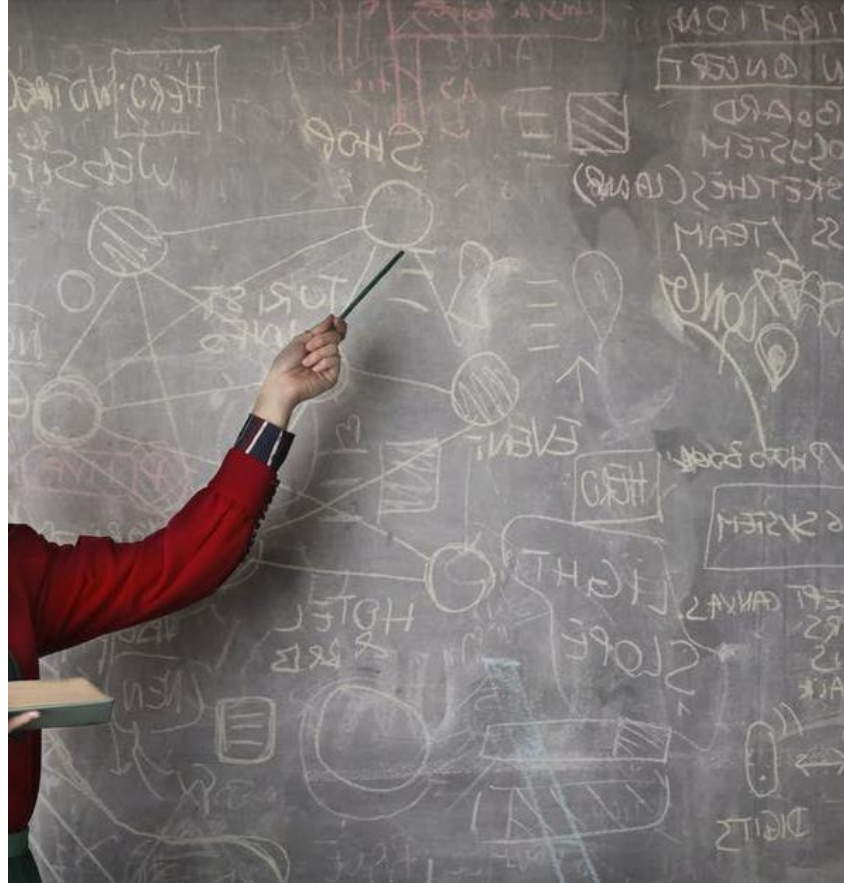
The scientific study of human behaviour and brain function.

Analysis of the research and evidence for human actions.

Taking different viewpoints on why people act the way they do.

Researching topics using a variety of research methods.

Mathematical analysis of data.



# Psychology

# What it is not...

*The study of society.*

*Common-sense ideas about people.*

*All about serial killers.*

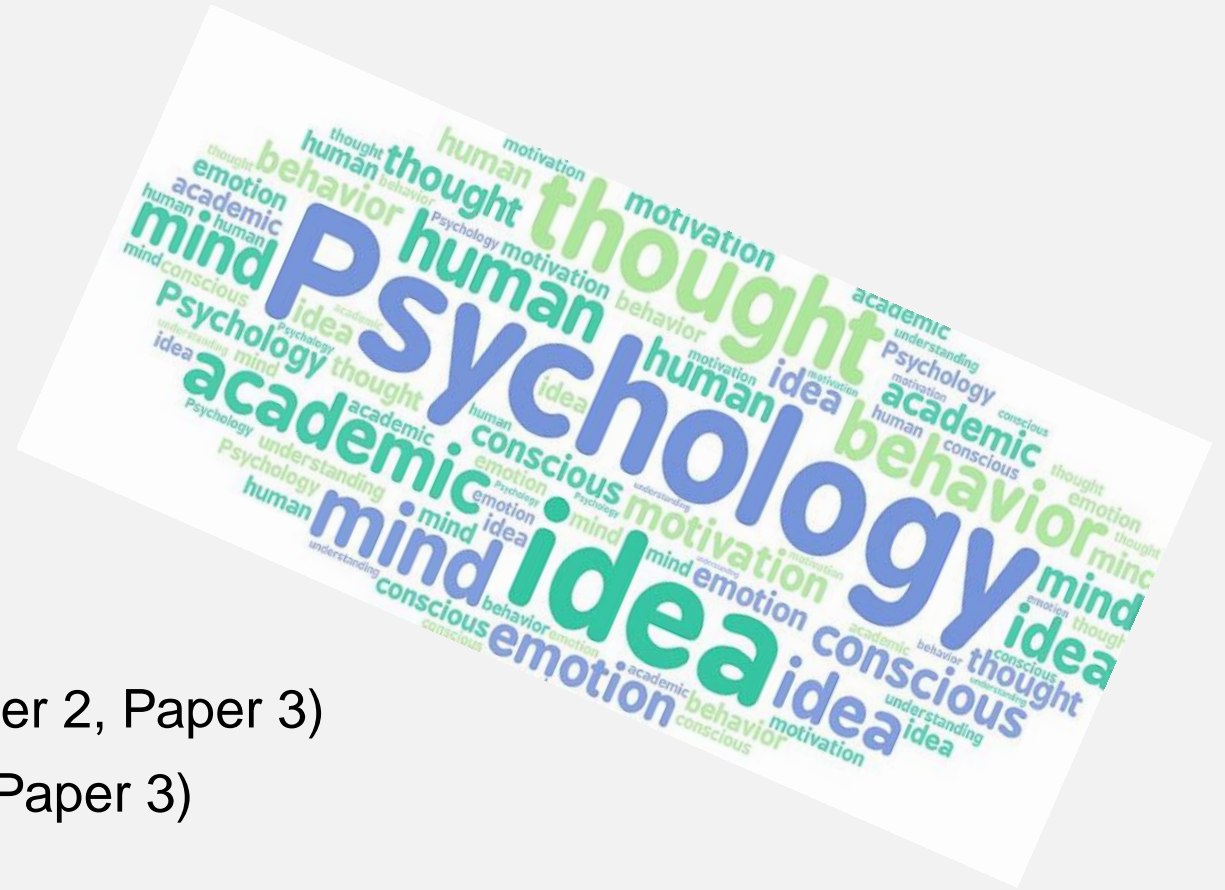
*Indisputable facts about human actions and behaviours.*



# In answer to common questions...

How is the course structured and what will I learn?

- Social Psychology (Paper 1)
- Cognitive Psychology (Paper 1)
- Biological Psychology (Paper 1)
- Learning theory (Paper 1)
- Clinical Psychology (Paper 2)
- Criminal Psychology (Paper 2)
- Issues and Debates (Paper 3, Paper 1)
- Research Methods & Maths (Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3)
- Practical investigations (Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3)
- Psychological concepts 'build' on each other, your learning in Year 12 will feed into the next topics throughout the course.



# Psychology Concepts

- You will learn about the **core approaches** of cognitive, social, learning and biological psychology.
- You will apply these to **psychological understanding**, such as the reasons for mental health issues; dyslexia and Alzheimer's; the cause and treatment of phobias; the role of brain functioning in aggression.
- You will understand how to **support your arguments** with psychological research, such as Milgram's studies of obedience; animal research of brain lesioning in aggression; Bandura's studies of role modelled aggression.
- You will be able to draw **links between issues and debates and research methods**, such as how to test variables using experiments for human memory; the nature of psychology as a science; how psychology can be used for social control; brain scanning techniques and empirical data collection.



# To study Psychology

- you need a passion to develop an understanding **human behaviour and actions** from different perspectives to **critique** explanations of things you may take for granted.
- you should want to challenge what is considered 'normal' behaviour and **critically assess** the nature of the human mind and brain functions.
- you need to embrace all topic areas, from explanations of **obedience** and **prejudice**, to human **memory**, through to the role of the **pre-frontal cortex** and **neurotransmitters** in human behaviour.
- be confident in **essay writing**, enjoy **wider reading**, take part in the assessed **practical investigations** using **scientific research**, have good **mathematical skills**.
- You also need a keen interest in issues that influence **human behaviour**, **decision making** and **human biology**.
- Psychology students should want to learn the skills and concepts necessary to **challenge** ideas, such as the influence of **culture**, **gender**, **nature or nurture** on how humans develop as individuals.



# In answer to common questions...

I have **never studied** Psychology before, will I be ok?

**Yes – you will be absolutely fine!**

**What do I do to guide you with this?**

- I provide you with comprehensive booklets for each topic.
- You will have to learn new concepts quite quickly, I will give you structured tasks to help you with this.

**What can you do to prepare?**

- Psychology suits students with a keen interest in human behaviour, it develops skills you may have from GCSE subjects such as Biology, Maths, Geography, History, English language and literature.
- Read around the main concepts over the summer before you start.
- Have a look at some of the online resources for psychology, such as simply psychology or BBC bitesize.
- Complete the summer tasks that you will receive during your taster sessions.



# Psychology Lessons

- **Booklets** to support each topic area containing lots of supporting notes, activities, and tasks.
- **Discussions** in class with peers and teachers on the understanding you have developed and the critiques of the ideas.
- **Applying** what you know to the use of psychology in society to demonstrate how multiple theoretical concepts can explain the same behavioural issue.
- **Independent research** of contemporary topics such as eye-witness testimony to make connections between theory, methods and how psychology works.
- **Examination preparation** including and practice questions.



# In answer to common questions...

## How is the course assessed?

Three written exams at the end of Year 13, each containing a range of different question types which will include extended essays, mathematics, research methods and analysis of unseen source material.

### Paper 1: Foundations in psychology

\*Paper code: 9PS0/01

- Students must answer all questions from five sections.
- Sections A–D total 70 marks comprising mixed question types, including stimulus response and short-answer questions, and cover the topic areas as follows:
  - Section A:** Social psychology
  - Section B:** Cognitive psychology
  - Section C:** Biological psychology
  - Section D:** Learning theories.
- Section E: Issues and debates has 20 marks and comprises two extended response questions, covering the topic area of issues and debates in psychology.
- The assessment is 2 hours long.
- The assessment consists of 90 marks.
- First assessment: May/June 2017.

35% of the total qualification

### Paper 2: Applications of psychology

\*Paper code: 9PS0/02

- The paper is composed of two sections. Students must answer all questions from Section A and all questions from a choice of three optional topic areas in Section B.
- **Section A** has 54 marks comprising mixed question types, including data response and short-answer questions and a 20-mark essay covering the topic area of clinical psychology.
- **Section B** presents students with a choice of one from three optional topic areas: Criminological psychology, Child psychology or Health psychology. Each section totals 36 marks, comprising mixed question types, including data-response, short-answer and extended response questions.
- The assessment is 2 hours long.
- The assessment consists of 90 marks.
- First assessment: May/June 2017.

35% of the total qualification

### Paper 3: Psychological skills

- Students must answer all questions from three sections.
- **Section A** has 24 marks and comprises mixed question types, including data-response and short-answer questions, covering the topic area of research methods.
- **Section B** has 24 marks and comprises two extended response questions based on psychological studies given in Topics 1–4.
- **Section C** has 32 marks and comprises two extended response questions, covering the topic area of issues and debates in psychology.
- The assessment is 2 hours long.
- The assessment consists of 80 marks.
- First assessment: May/June 2017.

30% of the total qualification





# Career Prospects

Psychology, police, law, education, marketing, medicine, nursing.

## University Destinations

Manchester University: Psychology

Liverpool University : Criminology

Edge Hill University: Nursing

Sheffield University: Medicine

Birmingham University: Forensics

University of Derby: Occupational Therapy



# Thank you!

If you have any further queries about A Level Psychology and the nature of the content included, you could have a look at the following sources:

## Pearson Edexcel Specification:

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Psychology/2015/specification-and-sample-assessments/AL\\_Specification\\_Psychology.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Psychology/2015/specification-and-sample-assessments/AL_Specification_Psychology.pdf)



Any questions? Email me at [cld@altrinchamcollege.com](mailto:cld@altrinchamcollege.com)

