

Cognition and Law

AQA
STUDENT GUIDE

why choose

Psychology

A Level

Memory

Gender

Sleep

Eyewitness testimony

testimony

Memory

Sleep

Cognition and Law

Mind works

The mind is something intangible that exists within our brain.

An unseen process of enzymes, chemicals and electric current moving within the structure of our neural networks dictates why we feel, think and behave the way we do.

But why is it that some people suffer from stress and mental illness?

Why do some people fear snakes yet a few think they are cuddly? Psychology looks at questions like these in the study of the human mind and behaviour. It is a science with cutting edge research that has real world applications to issues in everyday life, ranging from things like artificial intelligence to social change.



Mix it up

Psychologists observe and measure behaviour, and their therapies are based on scientific study. Psychology has links with many disciplines including biological, computer and forensic science as well as humanities such as sociology, philosophy, anthropology and even literature. It involves study of theory, empirical evidence and practical applications. This mix of disciplines helps to make psychology such a fascinating subject.

Your key learning topics

In your first year you may study topics such as research methods, social psychology, gender development, individual differences or cognitive psychology. This introduction will form a sound basis for the second year, in which you might study topics such as sleep, forensic psychology, celebrity worship, cognition and law, perception or mood disorders.



On your marks ...

In the first year you'll sit two papers. Each lasts for 90 minutes and accounts for 50% of your marks for the year. The second year is the same. You will sit two papers and, once again, each paper accounts for 50% of your marks for the year.

Where will success take me?

Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. Of course, if you wish to become a psychologist, therapist or mental health worker, this A Level is of direct value.

What skills will I learn?

This course will help you develop a number of skills:

- how to view the world around you from different perspectives
- how to plan and conduct scientific investigations
- how to analyse and interpret data
- critical reasoning skills
- how to put across your point of view fluently



Gender Eyewitness testimony



Will it fit in my life?

Students who take Psychology need a combination of curiosity and scepticism and need to enjoy research. Psychology students often also study Sociology, Health & Social Care, Biology, English and Sports Studies. But students who want a career in any of the caring services, or in marketing or business, will find an understanding of psychology useful.

Can't wait to get started?

Your tutor and career adviser will be the best people to help you decide whether this course is the right choice. They will be as passionate as you to find the best subject to develop your talents!

For more info, visit:

www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/psychology_a_new.php

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