

# A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

## WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour and is a subject that goes well with a wide range of others. Students who enjoy psychology are those who have an enquiring mind and an interest in explaining people's behaviour.



## WHY SHOULD I STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

You should consider psychology if you are interested in the process of science but also like to see things from a variety of angles. There is often no “correct” answer so you need to be prepared to consider different viewpoints.

## USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

It is important that you are prepared to read around the topics being studied in the classroom. This means articles in “quality” broadsheet newspapers and magazines, as well as books. Up to date research can also be found on the internet so you need to be able to select what you want from credible sources.

## COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT

The course follows the OCR specification. Students take three exams at the end of their second year as follows:

Component	Detail	Expected duration of exam
<b>Component 1:</b> Research methods 90 marks written paper	Research design and response; data analysis and interpretation.	<b>30%</b> 2 hours
<b>Component 2:</b> Psychological themes through core studies 105 marks written paper	10 more core studies; areas, perspectives and debates; practical applications.	<b>35%</b> 2 hours
<b>Component 3:</b> Issues in mental health. Applied Psychology – two out of four options 105 marks written paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child Psychology</li><li>• Criminal Psychology</li></ul>	<b>35%</b> 2 hours

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be no teacher marked coursework counting towards the final exam mark. However students will still do ‘hands-on’ investigations and these will help prepare them for a research methods part of the exam. All assessment will be examination based.

## COURSE COMMITMENT

If you choose to study Psychology, you will need to be prepared to carry out your own research, both practical and theory, outside the classroom. Any practical work you do will be conducted according to the British Psychological Society's guidelines.

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

For entrance on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for Advanced Level study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9) including a grade 5 in English Language, Maths and Science. If you are studying Psychology alongside other traditional A levels then your G Score must be 5.5 or above. To work out your G Score please go to the college website and click on the 16 – 18 tab and then entry requirements. If you are not sure how to work this out please get in touch and we will be more than happy to help.

## PROGRESSION ROUTES

Related careers include clinical, educational, occupational and forensic psychology as well as teaching, business and the health professions. Psychology is useful in any career that deals with people. Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

- Bradford University – **Adult Nursing**
- Oxford University – **Experimental Psychology**
- Durham University – **Psychology**
- Hull University – **Biomedical Sciences / Primary Teaching**
- Leeds Met University – **Criminology / Speech & Language Therapy**
- Leeds Trinity University – **Forensic Psychology**
- Liverpool John Moore University – **Psychology & Society / Applied Psychology**
- Newcastle University – **Law**
- Northumbria University – **Psychology**
- Oxford Brookes University – **Occupational Therapy**
- Sheffield University – **PE and School Sport**
- Staffordshire University – **Health Studies**
- Sunderland University – **Criminology**
- Teesside University – **Food & Nutrition / Forensic Psychology / Law / Midwifery / Psychology/Adult/Mental Health Nursing**
- University of Chester – **Primary Education with QTS**
- University of Cumbria – **Working with Children & Families**

## STUDENT COMMENTS

What our Psychology students say:

“Psychology helps you make sense of other humans’ actions and thoughts. I have found the course a very interesting and rewarding experience.”

“The Psychology department are brilliant, with great teachers and great facilities. I would recommend studying Psychology at Prior Pursglove to anyone who wants to challenge themselves. It’s great fun and very interesting, the course covers many aspects of Psychology – it’s great!!”

“Psychology has enabled me to understand why and how people behave. I have enjoyed taking this course and it has given me knowledge in which I can transfer into my nursing career.”

“Fun and thought provoking. Psychology looks into why people act in certain ways with a few weird and strange studies as well!”

“A subject that allows you to analyse, criticise and discuss reasons why. For human behaviours, it allows you to understand yourself and how to interpret others from discovering the mind.”

“This course allows you to look into a range of studies that explore different areas of Psychology. It is interesting to know the different views of different psychologists.”

Psychology is a lesson that’s different every time we come. Covering wide range of interesting, questionable topics with enthusiastic teachers offering many different viewpoints.”

“Psychology is very interesting to me and I have enjoyed taking it so far. This course requires a lot of work and effort, but in the long run it will all be worth it.”

“Psychology is very interesting, I like the fact there’s new studies all the time which are different and eye opening.”

“Psychology is not what I imagined it to be – it’s totally changed my outlook on life and people.”

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you require further information please contact Nicole Waters.

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision.  
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