



A-Level Psychology – Information Sheet

King Edward's School, Birmingham

Examination Board

AQA

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour: how we think, feel, act, relate to others, and how various internal and external factors influence us. At KES, our Psychology department explores topics including mental illness, forensic behaviour, interpersonal relationships, cognitive processes and social influences.

Course Structure

You will complete three examination papers, each 2 hours in length, taken at the end of Year 13.

Year 12 Topics

Module	Key Focus
Research Methods	How to design, conduct, analyse, and report psychology research (quantitative and qualitative).
Social Influence	How behaviour is shaped by others (e.g. conformity, obedience, group processes).
Attachment	Theories of attachment, effects on development, individual differences.
Clinical Psychology	Definitions of mental illness, major disorders, explanations and treatments.
Biopsychology	Brain structure, neural communication, hormones and genetics.
Approaches in Psychology	Main psychological approaches (e.g. behavioural, cognitive, biological, psychodynamic).

Year 13 Specialist Modules

Compulsory Modules	Specialist Modules (all studied)
Research Methods (continued)	Forensics - examining criminal behaviour, offender profiling, and legal/ethical issues.
Biopsychology (extended)	Schizophrenia - symptoms, diagnosis, biological and psychological explanations, treatments.
Issues and Debates	Relationships - theories of interpersonal relationships, formation and breakdown, cultural influences.

GCSE Entry Requirements

- Grades 7-9 in English
- Grades 7-9 in Science

Who Should Study Psychology?

- Are curious about human behaviour and what drives it;
- Enjoy analysing, debating and evaluating theories and research;
- Are capable of critical thinking and enhanced by reading, discussion and independent study;
- May be considering further study in psychology, behavioural sciences, health, medicine or a related field;
- See value in how psychology complements subjects such as Law and Economics — for example, understanding decision-making, human behaviour in legal contexts, and psychological factors in economic choices.

Enrichment Opportunities

- Participate in psychological research and experiments;
- Attend lectures, workshops or trips related to forensic psychology and mental health;
- Engage with interactive learning: case studies, debates and presentations;
- Use current studies and real-world examples in class.