



# CLAIRES COURT SIXTH FORM

## Curriculum Statement

Year 12 and 13 - Psychology  
2025 – 2026

Your place to *aim high*

# Psychology

All students study the AQA GCE specification.

Psychology A level is a two year course. At the end of the course there are three externally examined papers.

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Examination session</b>	<b>Duration of examination</b>	<b>Full A level weighting</b>
Introductory topics in Psychology.	Summer.	Two hours.	33.33%
Psychology in context.	Summer.	Two hours.	33.33%
Issues and Options in Psychology.	Summer.	Two hours.	33.33%

Research methods are an integral part of the course and they will be taught throughout the year. This will be done in class-based activities and small experiments.

The subject is taught using practical work where possible. Students will be expected to take notes during lessons and to keep a well organised file. They will be expected to read their textbook to supplement these notes. Students will be given past paper questions to test their understanding of the topics covered in lessons. These questions may be short answer responses or longer essays. All work will be marked according to the AQA criteria and these marks will be used to assess progress every half term.

Students will be expected to use the library and read around the subject; use the internet to access specific Psychology-related sites (examples are found in the Psychology Handbook).

## Textbook

The main course textbook are:

- The Complete Companion for AQA Psychology A Level: Year 1 and AS Fifth Edition by Cara Flanagan and Mike Cardwell.
- The Complete Companion for AQA Psychology A Level: Year 2 and A Level Fifth Edition by Cara Flanagan and Mike Cardwell.

## **Autumn term – Paper one (Year 12)**

### **Introductory topics in Psychology**

Students will gain knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, methods and ethical issues in relation to the content below. This will also involve application to unfamiliar scenarios and analysing, interpreting and evaluating psychological concepts. Students will learn research methods including designing and conducting research, analysing and interpreting data.

### **Social**

#### *Social influence*

- Types of conformity and explanations for conformity
- Explanations for obedience as investigated by Milgram
- Social influence processes in social change.

### **Cognitive Psychology**

#### *Memory*

- Models of memory and types of memory
- Explanations for forgetting
- Factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony.

### **Development Psychology**

#### *Attachment*

- Stages of attachment, explanations of attachment including maternal deprivation, influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relations.

End of module exam.

## **Lent term – Paper two**

### **Psychology in context**

Students will extend their knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, methods and ethical issues in relation to the content below. Mathematical skills will be assessed in this section. These skills will be developed through study of the specification content and through ethical practical research activities.

### **Approaches in Psychology**

- Origins of Psychology, learning approach, cognitive approach and the biological approach.

## **Biopsychology**

- Nervous system, endocrine system and the fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline.

## **Psychopathology**

- Definitions of abnormality, characteristics of certain disorders, behavioural, cognitive and biological explanations and treatments for these disorders.

## **Summer term**

### **Research methods**

- For example, experimental and non-experimental methods, hypotheses, sampling, variables, and implications of psychological research for the economy.
  - Data handling, for example quantitative and qualitative data, calculation of descriptive statistics, normal distributions and statistical testing.

## **Autumn term (Year 13)**

The first week will be spent studying the issues and debates that underpin A2, as well as an introduction to the principles of how science works within a psychological context.

### **Paper three -Issues and options in Psychology: Section A**

The chosen topic is relationships. Students will need to understand evolutionary preferences in a partner; factors affecting attraction; theories of romantic relationships; virtual relationship and parasocial relationships.

*End of topic test based on past examination questions*

## **Section B**

The chosen topic is stress. This will include the physiology of stress, the role of stress in illness; sources of stress; personality types and methods of managing stress.

*End of topic test based on past examination questions.*

End of module examination.

## **Lent term**

### **Paper 3 -Issues and options in Psychology**

## **Section C**

The chosen topic is aggression. This will include neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression; evolutionary explanations; social psychological explanations; institutional aggression and the role of the media including the effects of games and videos. Full details of the content of each topic can be found in the Psychology Handbook, or on the AQA website.

### **Paper 2 - Psychological research and scientific method**

This will be taught throughout the term, with students conducting their own practical research and using the methods, such as inferential statistical analysis, that they were taught at the end of year 12.

Students will be expected to develop knowledge, understanding and skills of evaluation in relation to relevant theories and studies in each of the three topics. They will also need to develop an appreciation of the issues and debates as relevant to each topic. As this paper is an essay-based paper, students will also need to develop the skills of extended writing.

*There will be continuous assessment, using essays throughout the term. Throughout the year students will need to review all topics taught in Year 12 as they will all be assessed in the summer.*

## **Summer term**

Revision for A Level examinations.

## **Mastery**

Sixth Form students will be taught core skills and concepts together with the knowledge that will underpin the study of Psychology at A level. These include critical thinking, writing ability and analysis of research and approaches. Recall activities are employed throughout the course to ensure understanding and mastery of knowledge and theories, which will assist students to understand key debates that they encounter in contemporary society. Exemplar answers and teacher modelling will be employed in order to ensure students develop confidence about how to think and write analytically. This will enable

students to apply this knowledge in their own writing and to demonstrate a deeper understanding of and participation in psychological research and theory. We will regularly practise and formally assess the student's learning using exam style questions which will prepare them for their exams at the end of the course.

**For further information please contact:**

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