

# Psychology

## About the Subject

If you decide to do A-Level Psychology at St Wilfrid's, you will be joining a popular and very successful Learning Area, which believes that your high personal achievement should be our complete focus.

We work hard to make sure our lessons are fun and engaging and this is reflected in the positive feedback we receive from past and present students. Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour and you will be able to enjoy a range of engaging and exciting topics such as forensic psychology. Students are given full support and one-to-one sessions with their teachers.

Our examination results are excellent with many of our students achieving at least one grade or more above their predicted grade.

## Course Content

### Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

This is a written paper lasting 2 hours and is worth 96 marks. It makes up 33.3% of the full A-Level. Topics in this paper are:

**Social influence** (Types of conformity/conformity to social roles/ explanations of obedience/social change), **Memory** (Models of how memory works/eyewitness testimony/the science of forgetting), **Attachment** (caregiver-infant interactions in humans/maternal deprivation/explanations of attachment), **Psychopathology** (what is abnormality/explaining phobias/treating phobias).

### Paper 2: Psychology in context

This written exam also lasts 2 hours and is worth 96 marks.

Topics in this paper are:

**Approaches in psychology** (approaches such as behaviourism/ behavioural/biological approach), **Biopsychology** (ways of studying the brain, flight or fight, biological rhythms), **Research Methods** (types of experimental method/observations/correlations/case studies/data analysis).

### Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology

**Issues and debates in Psychology** (Gender and culture in psychology/nature - nurture debate/ethical issues), **Relationships** (evolutionary theories of relationships/theories of romantic relationships/factors affecting attraction), **Stress** (sources of stress/individual differences in stress/managing and coping with stress), **Forensic psychology** (problems in defining crime/offender profiling/dealing with offending behaviour).

In addition, there are many opportunities within the Psychology Learning Area for extra study, including research investigations students carry out themselves, and a visit to London to explore Freud's museum and other Psychological places of interest. Students are also given the opportunity to attend revision conferences.