



JERSEY  
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# A Level Psychology at JCG

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# Introduction

Psychology is the **scientific study of behaviour and the mind**. The subject develops a distinctive and broad set of skills and allows scope for extensive critical evaluation from a range of perspectives.

The OCR specifications provide students with the opportunity to gain a **broad understanding** of psychology and will encourage students to think like psychologists.

They will have the opportunity to develop a wide-ranging set of **key skills**, including being able to communicate effectively using appropriate language, to interpret and critically assess scientific data, and to research and critically evaluate a range of sources.

The specifications also encourage the development of strong **literacy and numeracy skills**.

The acquisition of such a **diverse** range of skills will be of great benefit to students in their education, in the workplace and society in general.

# A Level Psychology tries to answer some of the following questions.....



Are ordinary people capable of terrible things?



Can we rely on eye-witness accounts of crime?

How do children develop moral reasoning?

How do individuals function with a 'split-brain'?



Can experiences physically change regions of our brains?

How can we explain autism?

Do psychopaths 'talk a different language'?



# Year 1 Course Content

Component Title	Content Overview
Component 1: Research methods	Develops a knowledge and understanding of the process of planning, conducting, analysing and reporting psychological research across a range of experimental and non-experimental methodologies and techniques.
Component 2: Psychological themes through core studies	Focuses on the main approaches in psychology. For each area there is a key theme for which students are presented with both a classic and a contemporary study.

# Year 2 Course Content

Component Title	Content Overview
Component 3: Applied Psychology	Students discover how psychology is used in applied areas by studying issues in mental health and choosing two options. Students demonstrate their learning through extended writing.

# Component 1: Research Methods

- **Research Methods and Techniques**  
Experiments, observation, self-report, correlations
- **Data recording, analysis and presentation**  
Raw data, levels of measurement, descriptive and inferential statistics, methodological issues
- **Planning and conducting research**  
Aims and hypotheses, sampling methods, operationalising variables, designing investigations
- **Report writing**  
Writing a report, citing academic references and peer review
- **Practical activities**  
Opportunities to plan and conduct different types of research
- **How science works**  
Consideration as to whether Psychology meets the key criteria of science such as falsification, replication, objectivity etc.



# Component 2:

## Main themes studied

- **Social Psychology**
  - » Responses to people in authority - *Obedience and disobedience*
  - » Responses to people in need - *Helping behaviour and altruism*
- **Cognitive Psychology**
  - » Memory - *Eyewitness testimony and context-dependent memories*
  - » Attention - *Auditory attention and visual inattention*
- **Developmental Psychology**
  - » External influences on children's behaviour - *How learning and the environment can shape aggression and health behaviours*
  - » Moral development - *Moral development, Lying and truth-telling*
- **Biological Psychology**
  - » Regions of the brain - *Split brain patient, neural correlates*
  - » Brain plasticity - *Early visual experiences and.....taxi drivers*
- **Individual Differences**
  - » Understanding disorders - *Freudian Theory and Theory of the Mind*
  - » Measuring differences - *IQ testing, Psychopathy*



# Component 3: Applied Psychology

- Issues in mental health

  - The historical context of mental health

  - The medical model for treating mental health – biochemistry, genetics, brain abnormality

  - Alternatives to the medical model – Behaviourist, Humanistic, Psychodynamic

- Option 1: Criminal Psychology

  - What makes a criminal? (Biological)

  - The collection and processing of forensic evidence (Biological)

  - Collection of evidence from a cognitive perspective

  - Psychology and the courtroom (Cognitive)

  - Crime prevention (Social)

  - Effects of imprisonment (Social)

# Component 3: Applied Psychology

## Option 2: Child Psychology

Intelligence (Biological)

Pre-adult brain development (Biological)

Perceptual development (Cognitive)

Cognitive development and education (Cognitive)

Development of attachment (Social)

Impact of advertising on children (Social)

Component		Marks	Duration	Weighting
Component 1: Research Methods	Section A – Multiple Choice Section B – Research Design and Response in relation to a novel source Section C – Data analysis and interpretation	90	2 hours	30%
Component 2: Psychological themes through core studies	Section A – Questions on the core studies Section B – Areas, perspectives and debates and Section C – Practical application of knowledge to a novel source	105	2 hours	35%
Component 3: Applied Psychology	Section A: Issues in mental health	105	2 hours	35%
	Section B: Extended writing questions related to the two option choices			

# A Level Psychology

Typically, two separate A Level classes

All A Level classes have five hours of classwork and students are recommended to spend five hours per week at home completing homework and studying.

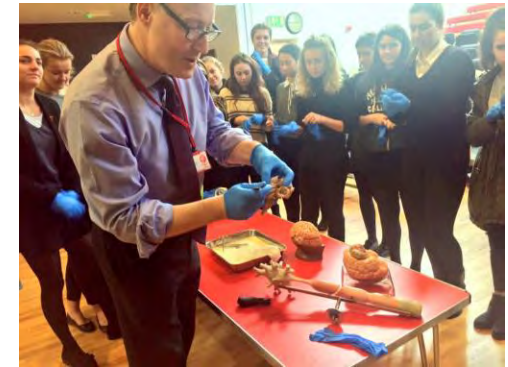
A Level Psychology units are usually split between Mrs Jervis and Miss Hallam.

Students who follow the course at Beaulieu, DLS or VCJ will also cover the OCR specification.



# On Island

- **Brain Day** - Every year since 2007 we have been fortunate to have had the service of Dr Guy Sutton who has excited and thrilled the students with an informative day of workshops, lectures and even dissections on the brain.
- Visits to the Magistrates' Court and La Moye Prison have also been organised in the past.



# Off Island - London Trip

Every other year the Psychology department runs a London trip. Activities typically involve a visit to the Sigmund Freud Museum, a Psychology Conference, Phobia workshops, Bethlehem Museum of the Mind and a Jack the Ripper walking tour.





# Off Island Vienna Trip

Every other year the Psychology department runs a Vienna trip. Whilst in Vienna we will visit the 'Fool's Tower', the house of Sigmund Freud/Museum, the Museum of Visual Illusion and the Mauthausen Concentration Camp.



# Stretch and Challenge

**Psychology Academy:** In the Spring Term, the department has organised a series of lunchtime sessions designed to stretch and challenge beyond the specification. Speakers have included:

Jersey Women's Refuge

La Moye Prison

Educational Psychology Service

**Psychology Clinic:**

Weekly lunchtime support sessions to support students in all aspects of the A Level course

**Jersey Psychology Essay Competition:**

Year 12 Students are encouraged to enter the Jersey Psychology Essay competition in the Summer Term





# Factors to consider...

A good standard of English, Maths and Science is essential for entry.

GCSE Maths grade 6 or above is **desirable** to cope with Research Methods content. However, a grade 5 is sufficient. Please be advised that many competitive undergraduate degrees in Psychology will require a grade 6 or above in Maths.