

Thinking about choosing to study Psychology at Advanced level?

or

Already studying it and wondering what your next step might be?

This worksheet has been designed to help you consider how you can use what you learn from an Advanced level course in Psychology in your future career planning.

+ What to study it with?

When choosing to study A level courses full time it is usual to study four subjects at AS level in the first year then three at A2 level in the second year. It is also possible to study some subjects via the vocationally related route (Applied A level double awards and BTEC Diplomas). The other subjects you choose to combine with Psychology may have an influence upon what you can choose beyond Advanced level, so check out your choice. Although some Advanced level subjects require a good grade at GCSE as a foundation for study at the advanced level, others can be studied from scratch. It's a good idea to check this out before finalising your Advanced level course choices.

CAREER WARNING



PSYCHOLOGY

Studying any Advanced level course will give you two main things, knowledge about the content of the subject (the study of individual and group behaviour, stages of development, memory, perception, mental abnormalities, etc.) and skills in how to deal with that content. Although you may not need to remember the content for very much longer than your course, the skills you develop can be built on and used throughout the rest of your life.

MIX & MATCH +

Psychology is often combined with other social science subjects such as Business Studies, Economics and Sociology or with contrasting arts and humanities subjects such as English, History and Theatre Studies/Drama. If Psychology is taken alongside Mathematics and Sciences students may be able to take a Psychology degree within a science faculty at university. It is also sometimes taken alongside a vocationally related course in Health and Social Care. This is also a useful combination for students considering Nursing and other careers allied to medicine.

The higher education and employment scenes are continually changing due to social, economic and political pressures. This worksheet, therefore, is not a definitive guide to your future career but is more of a prompt to get you thinking about making connections between your choice of Advanced level courses and higher education and career opportunities.

Psychology Skills

⊗ Ways in which you might learn

<p><i>Research skills:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ researching a topic by finding and choosing the most appropriate sources to use ✱ analysing written and statistical information and drawing out from it the key pieces of information needed ✱ summarising complex documents and reporting on research finding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ learning about how the mind develops and understanding and analysing human behaviour ✱ researching such things as the impact of stress, hypnosis, sleep and dream states, phobias, etc.
<p><i>Communication skills - written and visual:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ putting across clear and relevant information when writing about a subject ✱ using visual materials to illustrate straightforward and complex matters ✱ adjusting the style of writing to suit the audience or task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ writing essays, reports, and assignments ✱ producing and using materials and visual images to test perception
<p><i>Communication skills - verbal:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ taking part in discussions and making relevant contributions ✱ listening and responding to others and encouraging them to speak ✱ giving presentations, using images where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ interviewing people during surveys or experiments ✱ debating topics such as 'Criminals are born, not made' ✱ giving presentations on the outcome of projects
<p><i>Numerical skills:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ collecting and recording data ✱ reading, understanding and interpreting graphs and charts ✱ interpreting and presenting data in statistical tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ organising, conducting and analysing surveys ✱ producing graphs, charts, tables and diagrams of scientific data relating to psychological experiments
<p><i>Skills of critical analysis:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ investigating and clarifying problems by developing hypotheses ✱ testing hypothesis using research techniques and analysis ✱ using statistical techniques to analyse results of research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ planning, preparing and carrying out experiments to test such things as memory and perception

⊗ Ways in which you might use

- using a knowledge of individuals and human behaviour to study and investigate abnormal behaviour
 - recommending approaches to deal with psychological problems like educational under-achievement, criminal behaviour, etc.
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- producing written and illustrated results from experiments
 - writing treatment plans for patients, offenders, etc.
-
- administering psychological tests
 - listening to and questioning patients/clients as part of an assessment or counselling process
 - taking part in case conferences to discuss particular individuals and agree therapeutic approaches
-
- analysing and interpreting test results
 - analysing statistical data
-
- using insights into human development and behaviour to deal more effectively with people in working involving teaching and therapy
 - advising others on how to deal with people in areas such as marketing and public relations

psychology

🔍 other skills

In addition to the specific skills you will develop whilst studying Psychology at Advanced level, you may also develop a number of other skills which will be extremely important, whether you go on to higher education or into employment.

>Improving own learning and performance:

- dealing with complex subjects
- checking understanding of work set and seeking clarification if unsur
- agreeing and setting targets and planning action
- following a plan to meet targets and making revisions to the plan as necessary
- checking progress with an appropriate person
- identifying any support needed and using it effectively

>Working with others:

- planning activities with others
- identifying and agreeing targets with others and checking understanding
- identifying and confirming responsibilities within the group
- agreeing working arrangements with those involved

>Working with Information Technology:

- deciding what, when and whether to use information technology
- selecting and using appropriate technological hardware and software to process data, prepare and present information
- identifying support needed and using it effectively

Psychology

CAREER c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s





There are a number of careers where having an Advanced level qualification in Psychology, and all the skills that you develop through studying it, will be very useful. Psychology is concerned with the study of individual human behaviour. Consequently, there are many occupations, particularly those which involve 'working with people', which have direct relevance. You can find out more about these careers by looking up information in your careers library under the Connexions Resources Classification Index (CRCI) codes listed here.

CRCI code	Title
V	General information on
V	Psychologist - Clinical
V	Psychologist - Educational
V	Psychologist - Occupational
V	Counsellor
V	Social Work
V	Probation Work
V	Youth and Community Work
V	Careers Adviser
AA	Human Resource Management
O	Marketing and Advertising
UG	Police Service
F	Teaching, Education and Training
SB	Retail Management


Being able to understand how and why individuals and groups behave in the way they do will be a very useful asset in many jobs, so you need not be restricted by this list.


Although it is possible to enter some of these jobs after Advanced level studies, many of these areas recruit people with higher qualifications so you may need to seriously consider going on to higher education.

6 ways to check it out

Yes No

 Look at the 'Thinking of doing a degree' section which lists degree programmes that are popular with Psychology students. Tick those that appeal to you. Pick out your top 3 and explain why.

 So what do you think?
Are you interested in studying Psychology further? Give 3 reasons for your answer:

1

2

3

Remember: Advanced level course grades can be converted into UCAS points which count towards admission to university so it is important to choose subjects which reflect your interests and abilities

A = 120 points
B = 100 points
C = 80 points
D = 60 points
E = 40 points

Thinking of doing **a** degree?

Degree level programmes normally require a minimum of 2 A2 levels, or the equivalent, plus supporting GCSE passes. Students wishing to pursue a professional career as a Psychologist need to take a degree which includes those subjects which satisfy the requirements of the British Psychological Society. This will need to be checked carefully if another subject is taken alongside Psychology.

Degree courses in Psychology

A wide range of courses exist in universities and colleges. Entry requirements vary between universities. If taking a Psychology degree within a university science department there is likely to be a requirement for a Science qualification at Advanced level. Degree course titles include:

- ⊕ Psychology
- ⊕ Cognitive Science
- ⊕ Clinical Science
- ⊕ Applied Psychology
- ⊕ Behavioural Science
- ⊕ Experimental Psychology
- ⊕ Occupational Therapy
- ⊕ Clinical Psychology
- ⊕ Developmental Psychology
- ⊕ Educational Studies & Psychology
- ⊕ Social Psychology

Psychology related degree courses

Other degree courses where A level Psychology may be useful include:

- ⊕ Applied Social Sciences
- ⊕ Business Studies
- ⊕ Communication Studies
- ⊕ Criminology
- ⊕ Business Decision Analysis
- ⊕ Education Studies
- ⊕ Human Resource Management
- ⊕ Law
- ⊕ Marketing
- ⊕ Media Studies
- ⊕ Organisational Behaviour
- ⊕ Entrepreneurship
- ⊕ Personnel Management
- ⊕ International Relations & Politics
- ⊕ Public Administration
- ⊕ Advertising & Marketing Communication
- ⊕ Retail Management
- ⊕ Gender Studies

There are many degrees where having an Advanced level qualification in Psychology may not be of direct relevance but will be useful, however, so you need not be restricted by this list.

Details of all the degrees available in these areas, and more, can be found on the University Central Admissions System website at www.ucas.com

Psychology FACTFILE

Opportunities for Graduates

Recent statistics show the following trends for graduates from Psychology degrees:

- ★ around 59% of Psychology graduates entered full-time employment
- ★ over 15% went into full-time further study or training – over half of these taking a higher degree
- ★ health and social welfare careers are popular areas for Psychology graduates
- ★ graduates seeking a professional career as a Psychologist normally need further experience and study prior to gaining a post
- ★ around 17% of those entering full-time employment went into clerical and secretarial jobs.

...jobs



These are some of the jobs that Psychology graduates have gone into in recent years ...

- Human Resources Assistant
- Assistant Psychologist
- Prison Office
- Probation Office
- Research Assistant
- Trainee Chartered Accountant
- Care Assistant
- Classroom Assistant
- Sales Assistant
- Administrative Assistant



need to find out more?

You might find these publications useful. Check to see if your Careers Library or local library have copies.

- > Getting into Psychology
published by Trotman
- > Get Set for Psychology
published by Edinburgh University Press
- > Getting into Childcare
published by Trotman
- > Questions and Answers - Childcare
published by Trotman
- > Degree Course Guide - Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics
published by Trotman

Free leaflets available from the British Psychological Society website include:

So you want to be a psychologist
Careers in Psychology Flowchart

Free information is available from the following organisations. If writing please send a stamped addressed envelope to cover postage:

- ▷ Association of Educational Psychologists
26 The Avenue
Durham DH1 4ED
0191 384 9512
www.aep.org.uk
- ▷ British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
BACP House
15 St John's Business Park
Lutterworth LE17 4HB
0870 4435252
Email: bacp@bacp.co.uk
www.bacp.co.uk

- ▷ British Psychological Society
St Andrew's House
48 Princess Road East
Leicester LE1 7DR
0116 254 9568
Email: enquiry@bps.org.uk
www.bps.org.uk
- ▷ Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development
CIPD House
151 The Broadway
London SW19 1JQ
020 8612 6200
www.cipd.co.uk
- ▷ General Social Care Council (Social Work Careers and Training)
Information Office
Goldings House
2 Hays lane
London SE1 2HB
020 7397 5100
www.gsc.org.uk

- ▷ Institute of Career Guidance
Third Floor
Cophall House
1 New Road
Stourbridge
West Midlands DY8 1PH
01384 376464
Email: hq@icg-uk.org
www.icg-uk.org

- ▷ Market Research Society
15 Northburgh Street
London EC1V OJR
020 7490 4911
Email: info@mrs.org.uk
www.mrs.org.uk
- ▷ National Health Service Careers
Tel 0870 60 60 665
www.nhscareers.nhs.uk