



## FAQs - Questions you might want to ask:

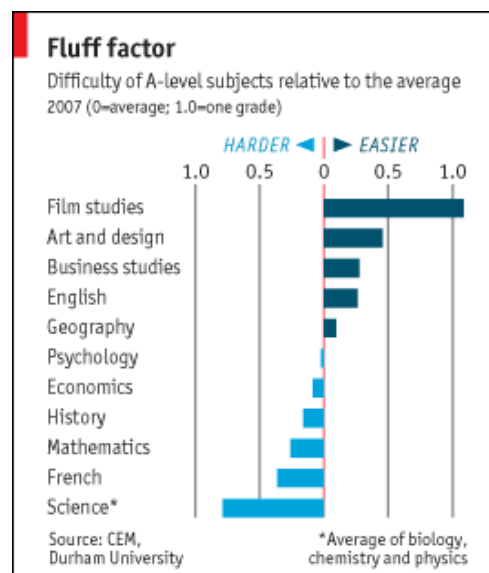
### **Is Psychology a Science? Yes!**

Absolutely! - it is a science and more. It has a huge range of ways of measuring and analysing human behaviour. It requires interpretation and eloquence. It is a subject for an articulate scientist. There exciting new branches of psychology emerging – you could start your own.

### **How hard is Psychology? Well....**

This graphic from a study done at The University of Durham suggests that Psychology has been above average difficulty in relation to other A level subjects. It is apparently not as hard to get the top grades in Psychology as it is in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. There is a large content and many skills to learn from scratch.

Motivation is key to success but with hard work you can certainly excel in this subject.



The mathematical content of the course has been increased since this comparison was produced, in line with increases in mathematical content in all Science A levels.

Students will gain valuable skills in interpreting statistical data as well as in scientific research methods through studying Psychology. **IT IS NOT A SOFT OPTION.**

## Do students do well in Psychology at Bootham? Yes!

Students at Bootham gained grades, on average, above expected, year on year, from 2002-2018.

## What textbooks should I look at? I recommend...

You could look at the electronic textbook we use (we also give out paper copies of course) using the link and password below BUT you could start by reading Opening Skinner's Box by Slater (ask for a copy for Christmas?) as a fun introduction and taster of some research that we cover.



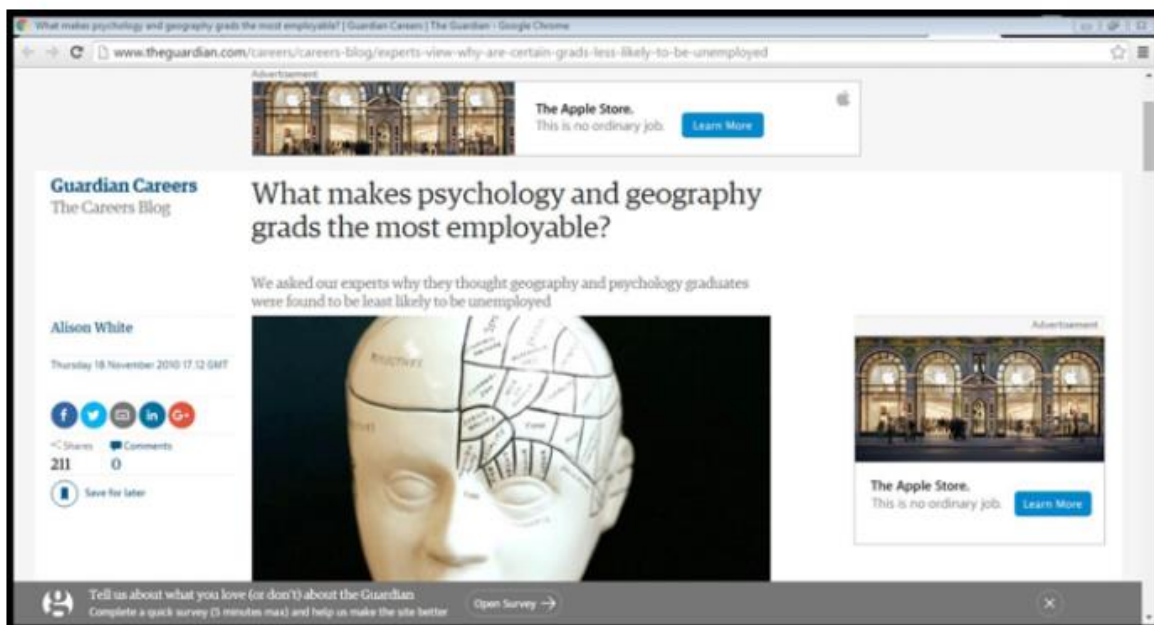
<http://www.illuminate.digital/aqapsych1/>  
username: SBOOTHAM  
password: student

Click to LOOK INSIDE!



This [link's](#) a great start if you want to get a taste for psychology including an excellent book to read and enjoy. I will send it out as a transition guide for the summer hols too...

## Does studying Psychology lead to employability? Yes!



Here is a link to an article explaining why Psychology graduates are highly employable: <https://www.theguardian.com/careers/careers-blog/experts-view-why-are-certain-grads-less-likely-to-be-unemployed>. Students do not need to have studied A level Psychology to study at Psychology at undergraduate level. However, studying A level gives students an invaluable experience and allows them to make an informed decision. As an

example, at the University of York 90% of students studying Psychology at degree have done the A level.

## What is the Course content? Here it is!

Look up the specification online: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level>

There are many different fields within Psychology. Each approaches the scientific study of the mind and behaviour from a different perspective. Here a few of the areas in A level:

- Cognitive Psychology – the study of mental processing – e.g. memory, language
- Social Psychology – the human in society e.g. conformity and obedience
- Biological Psychology – brain and physiology e.g. stress and stress management
- Developmental Psychology – development throughout the human life span e.g. deprivation and attachment
- Individual differences – including mental illness and mental wellbeing – e.g. schizophrenia, OCD.
- Neuropsychology – brain function e.g. sleep and dreaming
- Evolutionary Psychology – e.g. mate selection and the development of intelligence
- Research Methods and Statistics – studied throughout in the context of research

**How will the course be assessed? Like this**  
→→→→→→→→

**What are the GCSE entry requirements? Flexible!**

We recommend that you have a B grade or equivalent (approx. level 6) in at least one science subject and an essay-based subject (e.g. English) and a B in Maths. We decide

on a case-by-case basis. If you are weaker in maths or science, or in your written expression, you will need to work extremely hard to do well in Psychology A level.

### Assessments

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology	Paper 2: Psychology in context	Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology
<b>What's assessed</b> Compulsory content 1–4 above	<b>What's assessed</b> Compulsory content 5–7 above	<b>What's assessed</b> Compulsory content 8 above  Optional content, one from option 1, 9–11, one from option 2, 12–14, one from option 3, 15–17 above
<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>• 96 marks in total</li> <li>• 33.3% of A-level</li> </ul>	<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>• 96 marks in total</li> <li>• 33.3% of A-level</li> </ul>	<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>• 96 marks in total</li> <li>• 33.3% of A-level</li> </ul>
<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> <li>• Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> <li>• Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> <li>• Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> </ul>	<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> <li>• Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> <li>• Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 48 marks</li> </ul>	<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> <li>• Section B: one topic from option 1, 9–11 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> <li>• Section C: one topic from option 2, 12–14 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> <li>• Section D: one topic from option 3, 15–17 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</li> </ul>

## **What A level subjects does Psychology go well with? Most things!**

It goes well with all sorts of other subjects. Biology works very well with Psychology and there is some overlap. FYI - Universities are particularly interested in you as a Psychology student if you have studied Chemistry or Physics also. Religious Studies (aka Philosophy and Ethics) is also a match made in heaven! Ha!

Psychology is versatile. It can balance non-scientific subjects to keep your options open or balance science subjects to give you essay-skills and give you more options for university courses and careers.

## **Is Psychology accepted as a Science for Medicine? Yes!**

## **Does Psychology have good career prospects? Yes!**

A degree in Psychology provides a useful foundation for a range of careers and employers. The skills at A level are useful for:

Major employers of psychology graduates include:

- commercial and industrial companies
- financial organisations e.g. Barclays, Lloyds
- human resources departments
- local and national government e.g. GCHQ
- marketing companies
- the media e.g. The Guardian, BBC
- the NHS
- police forces, the National Probation Service and prisons
- schools, sixth form colleges and colleges of further education
- Social services.

Skills learnt from a Psychology degree mean you can do almost any career or go on to do further specialist training.

There are jobs directly related to a degree in Psychology:

- Clinical psychologist.
- Counselling psychologist.
- Educational psychologist.
- Forensic psychologist.
- Further education teacher.
- Health psychologist.
- High intensity therapist.
- Occupational psychologist

Related job options:

- Detective
- Counsellor
- Human resources officer
- Market researcher
- Play therapist
- Psychotherapist

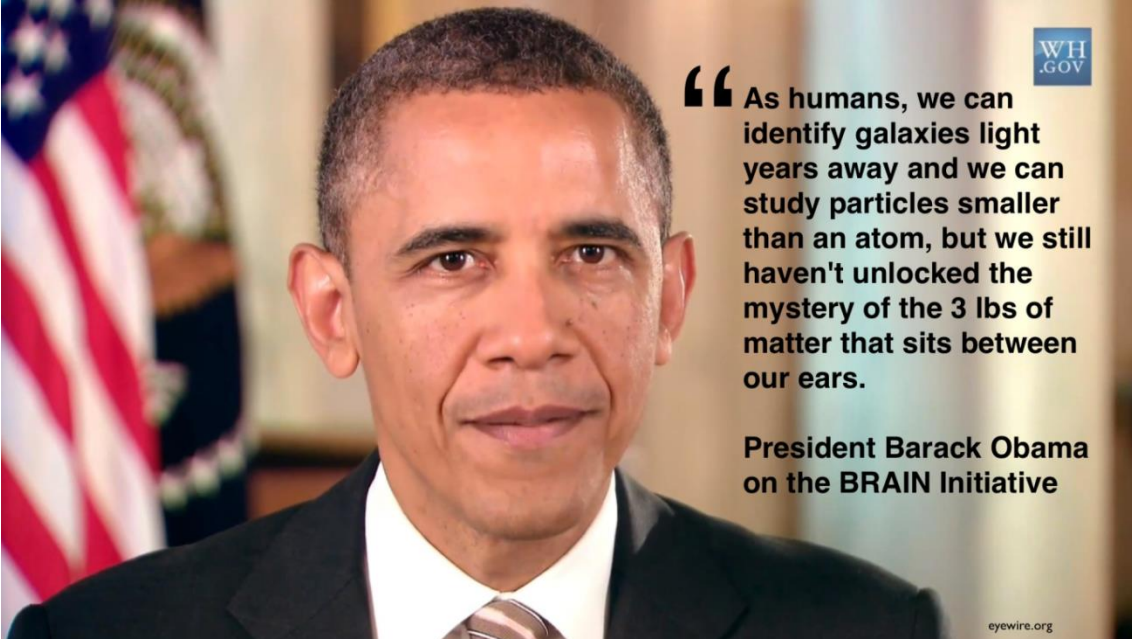
If you want to go on to do research there are a lot of exciting opportunities this decade and into the future! World-wide (not just US!)



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BRAIN RESEARCH THROUGH ADVANCING  
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**“** As humans, we can identify galaxies light years away and we can study particles smaller than an atom, but we still haven't unlocked the mystery of the 3 lbs of matter that sits between our ears.

President Barack Obama  
on the BRAIN Initiative

WH.GOV

eyewire.org

UNIVERSITY COURSES: 2011 – 2016

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Ancient History	2	2	1	2		
Animation						1
Anthropology			1	2		
Archaeology	1		1	2		1
Architecture			1	3		3
Art						1
Art Foundation	5	4	3	1	5	3
Biology	2		1	3	1	
Bio-med/chem/vet	2	4	1	1	2	3
Business/Management/Finance	3	2	4	3	9	8
Chemistry	1		1	1	1	2
Classics			1	1	2	
Computer Science			2	3	1	
Criminology		2			1	
Economics/PPE	9	5	1	7	4	3
Education			1	1	3	
Engineering		4	7	5	6	5
English Language/Literature	5	7	3	1	1	1
Fashion	1	2	2			
Languages	1	3	2	1	4	2
Geography		1		3	2	
Geology						2
International Relations	2	1	1	3	1	2
History	2	2	3		3	3
History of Art	1		1	1	1	
Journalism						1
Law		4		1	5	2
Mathematics	1	3	4	1	1	2
Medicine	2	4	2	8	1	5
Music	2	1		2	2	2
Natural Sciences		3	1			1
Nursing/Midwifery		3			2	
Pharmacy						1
Philosophy						1
Physics	1		3	1	2	1
Product Design	2	2	1		2	
Psychology	2	1	6	3	4	4
Religious Studies/Philosophy		1	2	4	2	
Sociology						1
Sport						1

## What you will be able to do when you've studied Psychology?

- Write well – good essay skills
- Understand Statistics
- Analyse data
- Design research, and write it up!
- Argue a case, using evidence persuasively
- Love learning
- Talk about interesting things
- See alternative perspectives



## **AWARDS**

In both years that Bootham entered teams, we won the University of York Psychology Department Faculty Choice for best scientific poster. The original research projects were designed and completed in the summer term of College I!

In 2018, our Head of department was given an award for public engagement in Psychology by the British Psychological Society.

