

# GCSE PSYCHOLOGY



**Wilhelm Wundt**  
1832 - 1920

## What is psychology?

The aim to understand the most 'complex machinery' on earth date back to the Plato era, a Greek philosopher (c. 428 – 348 BC) who explored topics such as pleasure, pain, knowledge, motivation and mental illnesses. However, it was not till the late 1800s that such abstract concepts were of scientific interest, courtesy of Wilhelm Wundt, the founding father of experimental Psychology. Wundt, who had opened the first research laboratory in 1878 (*Leipzig, Germany*), revolutionised our understanding of how the **mind**, **brain** and **behaviour** are connected.

## How am I assessed in psychology?

**Assessment:** 100% exam-based

**Exam board:** AQA, GCSE Psychology (specification 8182)

PAPER 1: Cognition & Behaviour	PAPER 2: Social Context & Behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memory</li> <li>• Perception</li> <li>• Development</li> <li>• Research Methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social influence</li> <li>• Language, thought and communication</li> <li>• Brain and neuropsychology</li> <li>• Psychological problems</li> </ul>
<p><b>Written Exam:</b> 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p>➤ Mix of multiple choice, short answer &amp; extended response.</p>	<p><b>Written Exam:</b> 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p>Mix of multiple choice, short answer &amp; extended response.</p>

## Why study psychology?

### Extra-curricular & remote learning:

Psychology is a popular subject in the social science department, however, the current educational challenges set by COVID-19 means that students need to be prepared for a new way of learning. The department provides an excellent bank of resources along with a range of effective teaching strategies that refine, stretch, and challenge our students' metacognitive abilities.

Furthermore, students will receive various opportunities to enhance their understanding of the subject. For example, when studying the topic '*Brain and Neuropsychology*', students will take part in dissecting lamb brains to get an insight into the structure of the brain and localisation of behavioural functions.

### Future studies and career options

Studying psychology at GCSE and A level does not only raise the likelihood of getting into one of the top **Russell Group** universities, but it also increases the number of career options open to you after graduation. Such career choices range from becoming a chartered psychologist to working in human resources of top-rated occupations.

