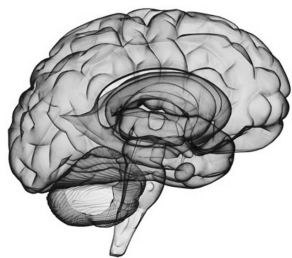


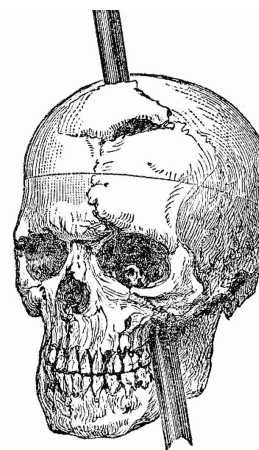
## Approaches to understanding behaviour



Behaviour can be understood from a number of different perspectives. All students will consider behaviour from a biological, cognitive and sociocultural point of view, encountering brain-imaging techniques, genetics studies, memory tasks, emotions, culture and conformity, among many other topics in Paper 1: core content.

## Abnormal Psychology

One of the areas students seem perennially drawn to - what is the difference between 'normal' and 'abnormal' and how can we judge? Mental disorders are considered, including issues such as diagnosis and treatment, although the focus is on the most common mental illness in the world: depression. Content from this topic is continually considered in light of the approaches to understanding behaviour, to facilitate the development of a holistic view of human behaviour, both normal and abnormal.



## Human Relationships (HL only)

As social creatures, the relationships we form are important, but can be affected by various biological, cognitive and sociocultural factors. In this topic the formation and maintenance of relationships is considered, along with group dynamics, social responsibility and violence.

## Ethics and Research Methods

Without research there would be no psychology, and without ethics there could be no research (nowadays, at least!). Woven into all other aspects of the course is a consideration of how psychologists investigate behaviour and how they ensure that they do as little harm as possible while they do it.



## Internal Assessment

You have to design a replication of a published study and then run it with a group of students. Your 2,000-word write-up is then submitted as part of your final assessment (worth 20% for HL and 25% for SL students). This is your chance to do some hands-on psychology.

## Higher or Standard?

Standard and Higher Psychology are equivalent in terms of difficulty. There is just more content in HL Psychology. Assessment is slightly different: SL students take two exams (three hours in total) while HL students take three (five hours in total). Coursework for SL is a more significant part of their course, although the task is exactly the same. Which you opt for will depend on whether you are merely interested in the subject or passionate about it.

## Course requirements

Psychology assessment is based on your ability to write clearly and concisely. Therefore at least Grade 6 in English Language is needed, ideally more. There is also a significant amount of biology in the course, so at least Grade 6 in Biology (or in Double Science) although a higher grade will mean things are a little more comfortable for you. **There is no need to have studied Psychology before** - the course is planned as though everyone is a beginner.

## For further information

If you are a BGS student, come and talk to Mr Asker. For students from other schools, feel free to email [asker\\_c@bexleygs.co.uk](mailto:asker_c@bexleygs.co.uk) should you have any questions.

