



PSYCHOLOGY (AQA specification)

Level of Study: A-Level

Description of Course

Psychology is a popular subject, which provides a link between the social and natural sciences by studying aspects of the human mind and behaviour using scientific principles. The Year 12 syllabus provides a broad-based introduction to many of the fascinating topics in Psychology. In Year 13, students will refine and further develop their understanding to a more advanced level. The course is examined at the end of Year 13 via 3 A Level exam papers. The AQA specification provides a strong foundation for students wishing to study Psychology at university. For those who decide not to take their studies of Psychology further, the course provides a fantastic opportunity to develop their numeracy and literacy skills on an academically rigorous and interesting course.

In this psychology department, our intent is to educate young people to understand and celebrate individual differences. The department seeks to equip young people with the skills to embrace differences and intelligently challenge discrimination. We implement this goal by creating a culture in which students feel comfortable to critique theories and research on the basis of their own lived experiences. Students will be aware that the theories and research they study are supposed to explain life, not dictate it. Students who study psychology with us feel supported and confident challenging established theories on the basis of their own experiences.

A level Units

- Paper 1 - Social Influence in Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Psychopathology
- Paper 2 - Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, and Research Methods
- Paper 3 - Issues and Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Aggression

Skills Required

A good standard of written English plus the ability to discuss and analyse logically is essential.

This specification contains an emphasis on scientific concepts and skills and some elements of mathematics; therefore, you must have good grades in these subjects.

Entry Qualifications

You must achieve a GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics, grade 5 in Science and grade 6 in English

Method of Assessment

A Level - 3 written examinations lasting 2 hours

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Educational Progression and Career Opportunities

Psychology involves the systematic study of mind and behaviour. It develops logical thought and analysis of abstract concepts. Psychology A Level is acceptable for entry on to a wide range of science, social science and humanities courses in further and higher education. Specialisation in psychology could lead to a range of careers including research (academic or consumer), clinical or educational psychology, counselling, occupational or forensic psychology. This A Level is highly regarded by a range of employers due to its ability to develop numeracy and literacy skills.