

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - Psychology

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? AQA

Why should I study this course? - Psychology is an appropriate course for anyone with an interest in understanding human behaviour. Psychologists study things you've probably never considered; they investigate the newly discovered phenomenon of mirror neurons, which visual cues activate what areas of the brain, which stage of sleep do we dream and so on. Psychologists also focus on things that have probably happened to you or someone you know. Ever had a word 'right on the tip of your tongue'? Does your cat come running every time it hears you opening a can? When you are driving, why do you stop at the sight of something as flimsy as a red light? Do some songs make you happy and others make you sad? Have you ever had a bad day and taken it out on your dog? Has a smell ever reminded you of an event or place in your past? Psychologists study these human behaviours in a scientific way. Psychology also plays an important part in marketing; the fact that more cereal commercials are shown at night than during the rest of the day is no accident! Why should you study this course? Because psychology is a fascinating and rewarding subject with a wide range of applications including sport psychology, educational and child psychology, neuroscience, clinical and health psychology.

Who is suitable to study this course? - You will need skills associated with the scientific approach such as those of research, numeracy, analysis and problem solving. A key feature of the course is that overall, at least 10% of the marks will require the use of mathematical skills, and 25% of the marks will be to show research methods knowledge and the application of scientific research skills.

You will also need to have excellent skills of written and oral communication, interpersonal and team working skills and the power to learn independently. It is a very demanding course that involves a lot of reading, writing and the need to get your head around a lot of very difficult ideas, concepts, theories and research.

Psychology compliments other subjects such as Biology, Maths, Sociology, Sports and Law.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course? Biology, Maths, English Literature

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? 5+ English, Maths and Biology (5/5 if studying combined)

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How is the Course Delivered? - Delivered by two teachers who you will have a total of 5 lessons with per week to cover the content and practise your application skills. In class activities include independent tasks as well as working collaboratively. You will need to be willing to participate in discussion as well as research analysis and the replication of psychological experiments. Outside of lessons you will be expected to complete at least 5 hours of independent study a week and a range of tasks will be provided; these include transforming notes, creating revision material, essay planning and writing tasks, conducting practical research and reading of material and research articles.

Subject Overview

Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	<p>Approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did psychology begin? • How has psychology progressed over time? • How has psychology become a science? <p>Research Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a hypothesis • Measuring Variables • Collecting a Sample 	<p>Forensic Psychology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is offender profiling? • Are criminals born or made? • How should we deal with criminal behaviour? • How can we stop reoffending? <p>Research Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysing Data: Inferential Statistics and Probability

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<p>Autumn 2</p>	<p>Psychopathology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes someone abnormal? • What causes abnormality and how are they treated? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phobias ○ OCD ○ Depression <p>Research Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting Experiments and Observations 	<p>Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the difference between sex and gender? • How have gender stereotypes changed? • How do we learn our gender? • What causes gender dysphoria? <p>Research Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Review • Wider research implications
<p>Spring 1</p>	<p>Memory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is memory? • Why do we forget? • Is eye-witness testimony reliable? • How can we improve memory? <p>Research Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting Self Reports and Correlations 	<p>Schizophrenia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the different types and their symptoms? • How is it diagnosed? • What causes schizophrenia? • How do we treat it? <p>Research Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Questions
<p>Spring 2</p>	<p>Biopsychology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do neurons and hormones work? • What are the different parts of our brains for? • What happens if we get brain damage? • What is the sleep wake cycle? <p>Research Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting Content Analyses & Case Studies 	<p>Issues and Debates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there gender or culture bias in psychology? • Do ethical issues outweigh the benefits of research? • Are case studies useful in research? <p>Research Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Questions

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Summer 1	Attachment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why do babies form attachments?• Is food or comfort the most important?• What happens if you never form attachments?• How does childhood affect romantic relationships? Research Methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysing data	
Summer 2	Social Influence: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why do people follow orders?• Why do people conform to others?• What makes people resist pressure from others?• How does social change happen? Research Methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designing a research project	

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How is the Course Assessed?

Three two hour A level examinations at the end of year 2:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology: Gender, Schizophrenia & Forensic Psychology

Progress will be monitored through controlled assessments completed in the classroom every half term along with mock examinations that take place after the Christmas break and Easter. Students also complete short essays and essay plans set weekly both in class and as homework.

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study? -

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>

<https://psychcentral.com/>

<https://mindhacks.com/>

<https://digest.bps.org.uk/>

<https://www.spring.org.uk/>

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<i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>	<i>Fiction</i>	<i>Ken Kesey</i>
<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	<i>Fiction</i>	<i>William Golding</i>
<i>The Cases that Haunt Us</i>	<i>Non-Fiction</i>	<i>John Douglas</i>
<i>The Jigsaw Man</i>	<i>Non-Fiction</i>	<i>Paul Britton</i>
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time</i>	<i>Fiction</i>	<i>Mark Haddon</i>
<i>In Cold Blood</i>	<i>Fiction</i>	<i>Truman Capote</i>
<i>The Case of Mary Bell</i>	<i>Non-Fiction</i>	<i>Gitta Sereny</i>
<i>It's Not Me, It's You</i>	<i>Non-Fiction</i>	<i>Jon Richardson</i>
<i>The Psychopath Test</i>	<i>Non-Fiction</i>	<i>Jon Ronson</i>