

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject Psychology

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? AQA- full details of the course specification can be found at aqa.org.uk/psychology

Why should I study this course?

How does upbringing affect the way we are? Is criminal behaviour a result of nature or nurture? How can I get more people to follow my leadership? What is the best way to treat mental illness? Does free will really exist?

All of these questions relate to Psychology, which has become one of the most studied qualifications in the UK. Psychology relates to every area of our lives- from memory & learning, relationships, dealing with criminals in policing, to treating illness. Psychology has the ability to prepare you for life, by broadening your mind to thinking about what and why people do what they do. Psychology is involved in every career and aspect of living.

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and the mind. Psychologists study what people do and why they do it. It involves scientific research methods to generate and analyse data, and uses a number of different approaches to explain variations in thoughts and actions. Psychology has direct applications for real life ranging from influencing others to medical treatments, and thus can be applied to many different career paths.

The demands of the course require students to write effective essays, evaluate research and analyse data. You will develop an understanding of ethics, social responsibility and an appreciation of the importance of equality and diversity. You will learn how to structure an argument, conduct statistical analyses, carry out research and problem solve.

Who is suitable to study this course?

Psychology will build on your skills from a number of GCSE qualifications, including Maths, English and Science. It is important that you have gained a good pass in these subjects in order to be prepared for the demands of A Level Psychology. Having an enjoyment of sciences is beneficial- you will need to understand how to conduct scientific research, and then analyse data using your numerical skills. We study data analysis and statistical testing which reaches some A Level Maths standard.

Psychology works well alongside a number of other subjects- for example sciences, maths, and other social science subjects such as law and sociology.

Psychology is accepted at some universities as a scientific A Level to support some medical and science based degrees. Careers specific to psychology include: clinical psychology, social work, teaching and educational psychology, health psychology, forensic psychology, sports psychology, psychiatric nursing,

midwifery, and medicine. It also has relevance in other occupational areas including management, politics, advertising, and careers in law. Psychology is a useful subject to have because it demonstrates that you have a range of transferable skills.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course? It is not necessary to have studied Psychology at Level 2/GCSE to be accepted on to the Level 3 Psychology. English, Maths and Science GCSE are key.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? To be accepted on to the Psychology course you are required to have at least 5 GCSEs at level 4 and above; this needs to include English and Maths at level 5.

How is the Course Delivered? The course is delivered by Dr Catherine Turton who is an experienced Social Sciences teacher, in four taught hours per week. You will be expected to consolidate learning and complete homework tasks for a further 5 hours of independent study each week. You will have access to a Psychology Google Classroom where a bank of lesson and revision resources are stored, and where written work and assessments can be submitted.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Introduction to Psychology & Research Methods; Psychopathology	Biopsychology Year 2; Research Methods Year 2
Autumn 2	Attachment	Gender; Forensic Psychology
Spring 1	Approaches Year 1; Memory	Schizophrenia
Spring 2	Research methods	Issues & Debates
Summer 1	Social influence; Biopsychology	Exam Practice
Summer 2	Approaches Year 2; Research Project	

How is the Course Assessed?

A Level Psychology comprises three examinations (2 hours each), each worth one third of the qualification.

Paper 1: Written exam, 2 hours, 33.3% of A Level.

Introductory Topics in Psychology assesses Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.

Paper 2: Written exam, 2 hours, 33.3% of A Level.

Psychology in Context examines Approaches in Psychology, Research Methods and Biopsychology.

Paper 3: Written exam, 2 hours, 33.4% of A Level.

Issues and Options in Psychology tests Issues and Debates in Psychology, Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

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

Textbooks and Revision Guides:

Illuminate publishing AQA Year 1 & Year 2 Psychology A Level

Websites:

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

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

<https://studyrocket.co.uk/revision/a-level-psychology-aqa>

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/psychology-revision/a-level-aqa/>

Books:

The boy who was raised as a dog- Dr Bruce Perry

The body keeps the score- Bessel Van Der Kolk

Behave- Robert Sapolski

Attached- Dr Amir Levine & Rachel Heller

Inventing Ourselves- Sarah-Jayne Blakemore

