

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - Psychology

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?

AQA - Psychology - 7182

Why should I study this course?

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and the mind - as such, it is accepted as a science subject when applying for medicine or nursing - it is also a very useful subject for those wishing to pursue those career paths, as it does give insight into how behaviours are learned and how people can be encouraged to change them for more helpful behaviours. It is also very useful for anyone wanting to go into a career in business or marketing, as Psychology modules are studied at degree level in these subjects, so a grounding in Psychology is very useful. It is also a very interesting subject in its own right - you will learn to be much more aware of how pervasive psychology is in everyday life, from how we raise our children to how we explain the causes of genocides. Because Psychology is such a broad subject, it is seen as a desirable foundation to many different degree level subjects and many different apprenticeship courses.

Who is suitable to study this course?

Most students can develop the skills necessary to succeed in Psychology - paramount is the desire to understand why people behave the way they do, what makes them 'tick'. A willingness to develop your mathematical competence in order to analyse data (although this is not beyond GCSE level) is essential, as is the ability to write essays (the longest essays are 16 marks). If you have an enquiring mind and an intense curiosity about people, then Psychology is a good subject for you to choose, as it will also help to develop your critical skills of analysis and interpretation.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

Maths
Science
English

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

5 passes at GCSE, ideally including a 5 or better in both English and Maths

How is the Course Delivered?

Psychology is taught over 5 hours a week which happens in a 2/3 hour split.

There are 2 teachers who deliver the course, but the general way of working is that each cohort has one member of staff who takes them through the two year course. There is an expectation that students will do independent study that reflects the number of hours delivered. This does change depending on the elements being covered; as a minimum, 2 hours a week of study should be carried out. We may use Google classroom to set and submit work if necessary and, in the event of working remotely, all lessons are delivered live by your class teacher.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Research Methods (embedded throughout) Attachments Memory	Research Methods (embedded throughout) Biopsychology Cognition & Development
Autumn 2	Research Methods Attachments Memory	Research Methods Cognition & Development Forensic Psychology
Spring 1	Research Methods Biopsychology Social Influence	Research Methods Eating Behaviour Forensic Psychology
Spring 2	Research Methods Psychopathology Approaches	Research Methods Eating Behaviour Issues & Debates
Summer 1	Research Methods Approaches	Structured Revision Exams
Summer 2	Research Methods Issues & Debates	Exams

How is the Course Assessed?

The course is assessed purely by external exams. These are 3 exam units, all of 96 marks in total. They are broken down by topic as follows:

Paper 1:

Social Influence
Memory
Attachments
Psychopathology
Plus, embedded Research Methods

Paper 2:

Approaches
Biopsychology
2 units of Research Methods

Paper3:

Issues & Debates
Cognition & Development
Eating Behaviour
Forensic Psychology
Plus, embedded Research Methods

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

Hank Green Crash Course in Psychology (Youtube)

Open University - Introduction to Psychology (Free course)

Psychology academic journals on an array of subjects:

<http://www.all-about-psychology.com/free-psychology-journals.html>

TED talks – Academics share research and anecdotes on topics (videos):

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFDE868BCF58A3950>

TED talks – Search for any subject/area for videos of interest:

<http://ed.ted.com/>

Facebook group for students run by AQA examiners/teachers:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tutor2uALevelPsychStudentGroup/>

Scientific American (magazine): Various easy-read articles:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/mind/>

Social Psychology research articles:

<https://www.socialpsychology.org/expts.htm>

Wordpress:

https://psychologyrocksblog.wordpress.com/?fbclid=IwAR263uv6_W-Uj96TmQ0IUhVOvx_cIF0TIOC7G28drvt9UMZl_gEHYfY5rr-M

Tutor2u revision website:

<http://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/topics>

Discover magazine (online):

<http://discovermagazine.com/topics/mind-brain>

Psychology Today (magazine):

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/>



Google Scholar – specifically for academic texts:

<https://scholar.google.co.uk/>

Travelling by bus? Waiting at the Doctor's? Procrastinating?

Twitter is a quick and easy way to read about Psychology in the modern world that's easy to understand.

[@BPSOfficial](#) (British Psychology Society)

[@newscientist](#) (New Scientist magazine)

[@sciammind](#) (Scientific American Mind magazine)

[@BBC_Future](#) (BBC science articles)

[@ResearchDigest](#) (BPS Research)

[@tutor2uPsych](#) (Revision blog)

[@guardianscience](#)(Guardian Science articles)

[@PsyPost](#) (Psych. Articles/current research)

[@PsyWonder](#) (Psych. Teacher/Examiner)

There are also many excellent books on different aspects of Psychology - speak to us for recommendations!

