

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/A-level

Why should I study this course? - The AQA Psychology A level course covers a wide range of topics, including social influence (obedience and conformity); memory; attachment; psychopathology (definitions of abnormality; explanations and treatments for phobias, obsessive compulsive disorder and depression). There is a section on biopsychology, so good scientific understanding is required. Psychology is often studied alongside other science subjects, sociology, maths, criminology, but the skills being developed are transferable to almost any other area of study.

The course includes exploring different theories and perspectives in psychology, research methods and optional units in the second year of the course. Students taking this course will develop a wide range of skills: from note taking to writing extended essays; being analytical and evaluating theories and research; the ability to read and summarise studies; creating and interpreting statistical data; personal and time organisation, to balance the study of theory with practical applications of areas covered.

Who is suitable to study this course? - Psychology is a useful subject to have because it demonstrates that you have a range of transferable skills. This course develops skills that are useful in a number of jobs and professions including law, business, medicine, journalism, marketing, advertising, personnel work, management and many more. 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 accepted at some universities as a scientific A Level to support some medical and science based degrees.

"Psychology is an interactive, eye opening subject that really develops my understanding of the inner workings of the human brain". A. Hinchcliffe Yr13

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.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? Minimum of five grade 4's at GCSE and Grade 5 in English, maths and science.

How is the Course Delivered? - You will be taught for 5 hours per week, led by one teacher. You will be expected to consolidate learning, complete homework tasks and 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	Schizophrenia; Relationships
Spring 1	Memory	Forensic Psychology
Spring 2	Social Influence	Issues & Debates
Summer 1	Research Methods; Biopsychology	Exam Practice
Summer 2	Approaches; Research Project	

How is the Course Assessed?

The course is 100% examination based. At the end of Year 13 you will sit 3 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

The psychology book - Nigel Benson, Catherine Collin, Joannah Ginsburg, Voula Grand, Merrin Lazyan, Marcus Week, Sarah Tomley

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Haddon

Psychology in Football - Nesti

We Need to Talk about Kevin - Shriver

Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of the Psychopaths Among Us - Hare

Working Memory, Thought and Action - Baddeley

The Lucifer Effect - Zimbardo

Obedience to Authority - Milgram

Talking with...(series of books) - Christopher Berry-Dee

TV & Film:

Ted Talks - Find these on Youtube - any psychological Ted Talk will be useful. Those with Phillip Zimbardo & Elizabeth Loftus are very interesting.

Conversations with a killer: the Ted Bundy tapes
Shutter Island
Black Mirror
Joker
You
Split
Hannibal
The Experiment
The Stanford Prison Experiment
A Dangerous Method
Experimenter

Any book or documentary on mental illness, psychological disorders or serial killers will be relevant to this course, but please ensure you are watching/reading with caution, most studies/psychological issues are dramatised for books and films.

**Disclaimer - many books/documentaries may contain distressing scenes.*

