

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

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 a fascinating subject, studying the human mind and behaviour. It will give you an understanding of how and why people behave in the ways they do and you will explore a range of different theories and explanations for a wide range of topics, from memory and forgetting to phobias and understanding sleep! An A Level in Psychology will build your skills in analysis, interpretation, essay writing, maths and scientific method.

Who is suitable to study this course?

If you have a love of learning and desire to understand human behaviour and how our minds work, this is the subject for you! You need to be interested in science and especially biology and maths for the research methods aspect of the course. A Level Psychology could lead you into a variety of careers and degree subjects at university - anything from clinical or educational psychology, psychotherapy, counselling, or any occupation where you are working with people and need good communication skills.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

GCSEs in science, especially Biology, help with the Biological approach in psychology; Maths supports the study of research methods and statistical analysis of psychological research; English supports essay writing technique.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

You need to have Grade 5 in English, Maths and Science to study A level Psychology, with a minimum of five Grade 5 GCSEs overall.

How is the Course Delivered?

The course is taught over five hours per week by Ms Tetlow (Danum) and Mr Commander (Adwick). It is expected that you match taught hours with the same number of self-study: reviewing your notes, extra reading, homework tasks, research, exam practice questions. All lesson materials are available in Google classroom and this is where assessment tasks will be set. There is access to online textbooks as well as textbooks in school.

Subject Overview (this may differ slightly depending on subject teacher)		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Introduction to Psychology, Memory.	Schizophrenia, research methods
Autumn 2	Social influence, research methods	Forensic psychology, research methods
Spring 1	Attachment, research methods	Cognition and development
Spring 2	Psychopathology: phobias, depression, OCD	Issues and debates, research methods
Summer 1	Psychological approaches, research methods	Revision & exam 1
Summer 2	Biopsychology	Revision & exams 2 & 3

How is the Course Assessed?

The course is assessed through three exams, each two hours long and 96 marks in total. There are a multiple choice, short and long answer questions on each paper and research methods and mathematical content is assessed across all the papers. A minimum of 25% of the overall assessment will assess skills in relation to research methods and a minimum of 10% will assess mathematical skills.

Paper 1: Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology (each 24 marks)

Paper 2: Approaches in psychology (24), biopsychology (24), research methods (48)

Paper 3: Issues and debates, cognition and development, schizophrenia, forensic psychology (each 24 marks)

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

Flanagan, C, Berry, D, Jarvis, M, Liddle, R (2020) *AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS Student Book (2nd Edition)*. Cheltenham: Illuminate Publishing Ltd

Flanagan, C, Berry, D, Jarvis, M, Liddle, R (2016) *AQA Psychology for A Level Year 2 Student Book*. Cheltenham: Illuminate Publishing Ltd

Cardwell, M & Flanagan, C (2018) *Psychology A Level Year 1 and AS The complete companion student book (5th edition)*. Oxford: OUP

Cardwell, M & Flanagan, C (2019) *Psychology A Level Year 2 The complete companion student book (5th edition)*. Oxford: OUP

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

<https://www.simplypsychology.org>

Crash course psychology youtube videos eg.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M>

