

PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA



Aims of the Course

The study of Psychology will enable students to:

- Acquire knowledge and critical understanding of psychological theories
- Understand a range of research methods used by psychologists

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. The A-level will lead students through the complexities of the mind, including methodology, research and its application. This subject will also develop essay writing skills and the ability to analyse and evaluate information.

Types of Learning Experience:

Students will study three units to achieve the A level in two years. Emphasis is placed on psychological theories and evidence and this is gained through lectures; classroom discussion; personal reading; journals; newspapers, videos and TV documentaries. There is an opportunity to attend national conferences.

Link Subjects:

Psychology combines the methods of science and mathematics with the high standard of communication associated with humanities subjects, so it complements most other A level courses.

Progressing to Higher Education:

Psychology is a fascinating subject, relevant to all aspects of life today. It is a highly regarded advanced level subject for entry to University and Higher Education and is useful for both science and social science courses as well as business, management and health courses including medicine.

Careers:

Psychology is relevant to those wishing to pursue people-related careers e.g. education; health; police service; marketing, personnel and also in the sciences.

Entry requirements:

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English, Maths and Science. GCSE grade 5 in English, Maths and Science is preferred.

A Level

Unit 1

Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social influence - Exploring conformity and obedience
- Memory - Short and long term, and eyewitness testimony
- Attachment - Stages of attachment, the influence of attachment on child and later relationships
- Psychopathology - Definitions of abnormality, explanations and treatments

Assessment

Written examination (2 hrs), 33.3% of total A level.

Unit 2

Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology - Origins of psychology, approaches
- Biopsychology - The nervous system, endocrine system, study of the brain and biological rhythms
- Research methods - The scientific processes of research, data handling and analysis

Assessment

Written examination (2 hrs), 33.3% of total A level.

Unit 3

Issues and options in Psychology

- Issues and debates in Psychology - Gender and culture, nature-nurture debate, free will and determinism
- Relationships - Factors affecting attraction and virtual relationships
- Schizophrenia - Classifications, explanations and treatments
- Forensic Psychology - Profiling, explanations and dealing with offenders.

Assessment

Written examination (2 hrs), 33.3% of total A level.

