



Overview:

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. It is a very good choice for those who are interested in people and their motivation behind different behaviours. Students with an inquisitive mind enjoy the challenge of this new and unfamiliar subject. Once you begin to study Psychology, your outlook on almost everything changes, becoming more analytical. Students will start to see Psychology in action everywhere they look and learn about theories that they can relate to their own lives, giving them valuable insight.

Paper 1: 33.3% A Level – 2 hour written examination

This unit comprises of four sections: Cognitive Psychology, where we focus on how human memory works and look at how it fails; Developmental Psychology, we look at human attachment, covering the importance of attachment bonds and study a variety of attachment disorders; Social Psychology, where we focus on conformity and obedience in social situations. Finally, Psychopathology looks at the diagnosis, explanations, and treatments of a variety of Psychological disorders.

Paper 2: 33.3% A Level – 2 hour written examination

This unit comprises of three sections: Biological Psychology, where we focus on chemical responses within the body, biological rhythms, and ways of studying the brain; Psychological research methods studying how Psychologists use these to investigate behaviour; and Approaches in Psychology, which looks at the origins of Psychology and basic assumptions that underlie the whole subject.

Paper 3: 33.3% A Level – 2 hour written examination

This unit comprises of four sections: Issues and debates in Psychology (compulsory), then students will take one question from each of the 3 option blocks. The options taught are indicated with *, but these may change to include other topics in the blocks: **Option 1** – Relationships, Gender*, Cognition and development, **Option 2** – Schizophrenia*, Eating behaviour, Stress, **Option 3** – Aggression, Forensic Psychology*, and Addiction. All these topics can be applied to real life, giving you an insight into a range of different real world issues and transferrable skills.

Expectations:

We expect students interested in the course to attend the induction sessions at the end of the year and complete the task set over the summer. Once the course starts in September, you will need to access the Digital Textbook as this will provide you with the basis to complete the Year 1 course. You will also be expected to undertake wider reading around the course and will be provided with a list of recommended readings.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities:

Opportunities to stretch and challenge students are available through the course websites and independent learning tasks. There may be opportunities to attend a student revision conference before the examination.

Career Pathways:

Studying Psychology in higher education can lead to careers in the Forensic Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Sports Psychology, Educational Psychology or Counselling fields. Psychology also provides a useful training for a much wider range of career options. These include Market Research, Human Resources, Social Work, Teaching, Nursing, Advertising, Sales, Media and Broadcasting, Personnel Management, and even the Police and the Armed Forces.

Many students go on to study Psychology at university. Psychology can be taken as a single honours degree or combined with other subjects. Psychology is also useful in many other careers because it develops a number of transferable skills which are useful in many jobs and professions.

Psychology develops oral, visual and written communication, problem solving, numeracy and statistical skills, critical and creative thinking, decision making, organisational skills, team working, IT skills, and data analysis skills.

Good combinations of other subjects to study with Psychology:

Biology, Sociology, English, Religious Studies, Mathematics, Physical Education, Health & Social Care.

Students Testimonials:

"The variety of teaching and learning styles in lessons is both fun and challenging." "Psychology challenges my beliefs and ideas." "It is a 'sexy' subject!" "Psychology is a fascinating subject which helps develop useful analytical and evaluation skills." "Psychology lets you learn about other people's behaviour and thoughts, giving you a wider understanding of the way people view the world."