

PSYCHOLOGY **A Level**



Where do I start from?

Along with the School's minimum entry requirements you will need a minimum grade C in GCSE English or in a GCSE Humanities subject and minimum grade C in Biology or CC for Core with Additional Science. You do not have to have studied Psychology before. It is essential that you are able to explain psychological ideas and essay writing is key to success at A Level.

AQA Psychology A Level

What will I study in Psychology?

In the **first year** you will study the following topics:
Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Approaches in Psychology.
Psychopathology and Research methods.

Within these we examine the nature of human memory and how early experiences affect your development as well everyday social behaviour such as obedience and conformity.

We also look at different explanations of human behaviour and specifically relate these to OCD, Depression and Phobias as well as looking at how psychologists research human behaviour.

How will I be assessed?

There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course and in the first year the focus will be on developing knowledge and descriptive and evaluation skills. Multiple choice, as well as written answers will be practiced and we shall start to develop extended writing. The main focus of the second year is extended writing and application questions and therefore the focus of assessment will be on this.

In the **second year** you will study the following topics:
Bio-Psychology Research Methods. Issues and Debates in Psychology, Gender, Eating Behaviour and Aggression.

We look at the biological factors studied in psychology such as brain structure and neurotransmitters.

We also focus on some of the big debates such as nature vs nurture.

How will I study?

Lessons will vary in style depending on the topic being studied. Much emphasis is placed on individual study skills and independent work. Examination technique is also key and will be a main focus in both lessons and home learning. Students will be expected to undertake practical investigations, in both years.

What does the subject combine well with?

It complements certain other Social Science courses and fits equally well with P.E., Biology and English. Psychology can be studied at University either as a Science or an Arts Degree.