A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY
Exam Board: AQA

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?

For this subject you will need a minimum Grade 6 in Biology or 66 for Core with Additional Science. You do not have to have studied Psychology before, but if you have, you will need a minimum Grade 6. A minimum Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature and a minimum grade 5 in Mathematics is also required. It is essential that you are able to explain psychological ideas and essay writing is key to success at A Level.

What will I study in Psychology?

Year 1: You will study the following topics: Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Approaches in Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health and Research methods.

Within these we examine the nature of human memory and how early experiences affect your development as well as 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.

Year 2: 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 and relate these to behaviours such as Aggression, Eating and Gender. Within these three units we also cover social explanations and some additional disorders such as Anorexia in the Eating Behaviours unit.

We also focus on some of the big debates such as nature vs nurture within the issues and debates unit and relate these back to prior learning throughout the two years.

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.

Literacy

Psychology includes a wide range of subject specific terms that you will be expected to learn and use in both written assessment and oral work. You will therefore need to develop a glossary of key terms to use in your written work throughout the course. A successful Psychology student is a student with highly developed literacy skills.

How will I study?

Lessons will vary in style depending on the topic being studied. 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 develop their extended writing within the subject also via standard essays and essays based on scenarios where knowledge needs to be applied.

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.