

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY
(AQA specification)

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Psychologists are interested in understanding why people do the things they do and they devise theories which explain and predict human behaviour. Throughout the course we will look at a number of different areas of psychological research, such as: how your memory works; how different psychological perspectives explain behaviour; how the FBI profiles serial killers; why people commit crimes; how to identify, explain and treat mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, depression and OCD; and also how to design and carry out psychological research.

YEAR ONE

Unit 1 involves the study of Social influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology

Social influence looks at conformity, obedience and minority influence.

Memory covers models of memory, explanations of forgetting and eyewitness testimony.

Attachment involves caregiver-infant interactions, explanations for attachment and maternal deprivation.

Psychopathology examines what is abnormal behaviour and looks at different explanations and treatments for disorders (e.g. OCD, Depression and Phobias).

Unit 1 is assessed by a 2 hour examination comprising of multiple-choice, short answer and extended writing sections.

Unit 2 involves studying Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research methods.

Approaches covers the origins and emergence of Psychology as a science.

Biopsychology looks at the nervous system, brain localization and plasticity, brain scans and sleep.

Research methods looks at the scientific process, data handling and analysis and writing up research.

Unit 2 is assessed by a 2 hour examination comprising of multiple-choice, short answer and extended writing sections.

YEAR TWO

Unit 3 involves the study of issues and debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

Issues and debates analyses research in terms of gender bias, reductionism, determinism and culture bias.

Relationships involves the formation, maintenance and breakdown of relationships and virtual relationships.

Schizophrenia examines the causes and treatments of the disorder.

Forensics involves learning the FBI method of profiling of serial killers, causes of offending, punishments and rehabilitation.

Unit 3 is assessed by a 2 hour written examination comprising of multiple-choice, short answer and extended writing sections.

Throughout the 2 years students will experience visits from working psychologists from different fields, and have the chance to visit universities and Psychology talks.

GCSE requirements:

Psychology – grade 5 (if taken)

English Language – grade 4

Mathematics – grade 4

Double Science (Core and Additional) – grade 4 in BOTH, or a grade 4 in two separate Sciences

*At least **one** grade 5 in a literate subject*