

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY **(AQA specification)**



Psychology is all about you! It 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: why we follow destructive authority; how easy it is to plant false memories in eyewitnesses; how the FBI profiles serial killers; why people commit murder; 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 - why do we obey authority? Why do we have a need to fit in?

Memory - how reliable is eyewitness testimony? How do the police interview witnesses?

Attachment - what psychological effects do children suffer if emotionally neglected? Why do we love?

Psychopathology - how do we explain and treat psychological disorders (e.g. OCD, Depression and Phobias)?

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

Approaches - how do the different areas of Psychology explain behaviours? How is Psychology a science?

Biopsychology - what happens if you split someone's brain in half? Why do we sleep at night?

Research methods - how do psychologists design and conduct experiments? What will *you* find when you conduct your own research?

YEAR TWO

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

Issues and debates - how should psychologists research socially sensitive issues such as sexuality?

Relationships - what is the Psychology of attraction? When does celebrity fandom become dangerous?

Schizophrenia - why do schizophrenics hear voices? How can you treat and manage the disorder?

Forensics - why does someone become a serial killer? How do the FBI profile serial killers? Can offenders be rehabilitated?

All 3 units are assessed by 2 hour written examinations consisting 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*