

Psychology

Examination Board: AQA

Staff Lead

R Richardson, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and this course will stimulate passion and foster a curiosity of understanding of why we behave and think in the way that we do. Psychology will introduce you to a variety of viewpoints from some of the most influential psychologists throughout history. We study the impact that their work has had on society and encourage students to make links between what they have learned in class and real-life. Students will develop a deep awareness of the different psychological approaches and will develop a critical understanding of how these approaches view behaviour. Through the study of a broad range of topics such as mental illnesses, social influence, addiction, attachment, and relationships, you will develop tolerance, awareness, and respect towards other individuals.

Psychology creates critical thinkers. The ability to analyse, evaluate theories of human behaviour in light of evidence and question the validity of information is an essential skill; this course will give students the confidence and skills to be able to do this. We encourage students to go beyond their immediate experience and use evidence from research and theory to help explain the individual.

Psychology is assessed via three examination units which are two hours each and address a wide variety of topic areas. Each examination unit involves a series of short and extended writing questions and includes 16-mark essay questions.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Psychology provides a useful foundation for any degree course, including medicine. This subject is also relevant for any job that requires interpersonal skills such as Teaching, Nursing, Health Care professions, Social Work, Educational Psychology and Law.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 5 in Mathematics and 5-5 in Science.

Recommended - Mathematics GCSE grade 6 or above.

Psychology Modules

Paper 1	Memory: this explores theoretical models of memory, theories of forgetting and the inaccuracy of eyewitness testimony. Social influence: this involves looking at conformity, obedience, resistance to social influence and the mechanisms involved with social change. Attachment: this topic explores how babies form attachments with their primary attachment figure and the impact this can have on their later development. Psychopathology: explores characteristics, explanations and treatments of phobias, OCD & depression.
Paper 2	Approaches: involves studying the different theoretical viewpoints in psychology and exploring how they explain behavior. Biopsychology: explores the structure and function of the human brain. Research methods: focuses on how psychologists conduct research.
Paper 3	Issues and debates: looks at biases within psychological research and debates issues such as is behaviour the result of nature or nurture? Schizophrenia: investigates biological and psychological causes and treatment of schizophrenia. Relationships: explores factors affecting attraction in relationships and theories surrounding human romantic relationships. Addiction: looks at risk factors for addiction and investigates explanations for smoking and gambling addiction.