

Subject: Psychology	Awarding Body: AQA
Head of Dept: Miss Thorpe	Teacher: Miss Thorpe

Preferred entry requirements:

Psychology involves scientific research methods and statistics, so good Science and Mathematics GCSEs provide some of the skills needed for Psychology. A large part of assessment involves essays, so reasonable to good literacy skills are also important.

Specification Content

A level			
Year 1 Paper 1	Introductory topics in Psychology: social influence, memory, attachment formation in infants, psychopathology	Year 2 Paper 1	Introductory topics in Psychology: social influence, memory, attachment formation in infants, psychopathology
Paper 2	Psychology in context: approaches in psychology, biopsychology, research methods	Paper 2	Psychology in context: approaches in psychology, biopsychology, research methods
The first year AS course is tested in two 90-minute tests. The A level course is tested in three 2-hour tests.		Paper 3	Issues and options in Psychology: issues and debates in psychology, gender, eating behaviour, aggression

Structure of the course:

For this A level course you will study social influence, including why people conform and obey. You will look at different models that explain how memory works, including explanations of why we forget. Attachment formation concerns how infants form a bond to their main carer. In psychopathology you will find out about explanations and therapies for disorders. You will learn about different approaches to explaining behaviour in psychology. You will also study biopsychology, including nerve impulse transmission, brain structure, and techniques for finding out about brain function. You will develop awareness of the major debates in psychology, for example, whether behaviour is due to nature or to nurture, and to what extent we have control over our behaviour. You will study biological and psychological explanations of gender, what influences our eating behaviour and why some people develop eating disorders, and how psychology can be used to help us understand aggression. Research methods are an important aspect of the course, and though there is no coursework component, you will be expected to conduct and evaluate studies.

Methodology:

Lessons vary in the activities chosen, but will comprise some taught information involving listening, note-taking and participation in questioning; a wide variety of individual and group activities designed to encourage independent learning, and replication of key studies. Activities are chosen to help students develop verbal and written communication skills, numeracy and ICT, and which also develop important key skills such as working with others, action planning and improving own learning and performance.

Strengths/Skills developed through studying this subject:

Students are given every opportunity and assistance to develop a confident and balanced approach to study at Sixth Form level, with focus on increasing independence and more sophisticated study skills through the Upper Sixth year in preparation for higher or further education. All key skills are developed through this subject at A level. A level Psychology also focuses students' minds so that when they ask the question, "*Why do people behave like that?*" they can take an objective, evidence-based approach in trying to explain why. This promotes insight, understanding and tolerance of others.

What students do with this qualification:

The skills and personal qualities developed through this course mean that Psychology students are multi-skilled, confident and resourceful individuals who are well prepared for the next step in choosing and embarking on further training for a career. Psychology graduates have excellent employment prospects, with high rates of employment following graduation when compared with other subjects. The variety of skills developed in a Psychology degree make a huge variety of careers accessible to Psychology graduates.