

Subject: Psychology	Awarding Body: AQA
Head of Dept: Mrs Bradbury-Grubb	Teacher: Mrs Bradbury-Grubb

Preferred entry requirements:

Psychology involves scientific research methods, statistics and essay writing, so grade 5 in Maths, English and Science required.

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 A level course is tested in three 2-hour tests.		Paper 3	Issues and options in Psychology: issues and debates in psychology, relationships, schizophrenia, 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 and how research into memory has improved accuracy of eyewitness testimony. Attachment formation concerns how infants form a bond to their main carer. In psychopathology you will find out about explanations and therapies for three disorders – depression, phobias, and obsessive compulsive disorder. 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 evolutionary and psychological explanations of romantic relationships, biological and psychological explanations of schizophrenia, and how psychology can be used to help us understand aggression. Research methods are a large and important aspect of the course, and though there is no coursework component, you will be expected to conduct and evaluate studies.

Methodology:

Lesson activities vary 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 particular in preparation for higher or further education. 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 self and 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. Those who go on to study Psychology in higher education have excellent employment prospects, with excellent 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.