



A Level Psychology

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. It will enable you to analyse human behaviour with a greater depth of understanding, and develop scientific research skills.

What is the course structure?

We will be following the AQA Psychology syllabus (7182).

Year 1

Introductory topics in Psychology:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment

Psychology in context:

- Approaches in psychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

Students are assessed with internal school examinations at the end of Year 12. There are two examinations both of 90 minutes duration. Assessments are based on year 1 knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation and understanding of how science works.

Questions include multiple choice, short answer and extended writing. They will require students to define, explain, describe, analyse and evaluate information.

Year 2

Recap/ revision of Year 1 - Introductory topics in Psychology:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Psychology in context:

- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods
- Issues and debates in psychology

Issues and options in Psychology:

Section 1

- Gender

Section 2

- Schizophrenia

Section 3

- Forensic psychology

Students are assessed at the end of Year 13 including knowledge from across the two years of study. There are three external examinations, each is two hours in length and each worth 33.3% of the A level grade. Assessments are based on year 1 and 2 knowledge and understanding of psychological research, analysis and evaluations of psychological research and understanding of how science works.

Exams are very content heavy and students are required to write with breadth and depth.

Which activities will I be engaged in during the course?

- Debate and discussion
- Research
- Use of scientific methods for collecting and analysing data
- Analysing and evaluating theories and research studies
- Psychological experiments
- Interviewing and surveying other people
- Mathematical skills including statistical and qualitative analysis
- Visits/conferences

How can I prepare for the course?

You will be expected to research widely and independently, plan and carry out investigations, advance psychological arguments and hypotheses, evaluate evidence and question and think critically about every aspect you study.

Further information: Jennifer Porter (Head of Psychology).