

AS / A Level Psychology

What does the course involve?

Psychology is, for many students, a brand new subject and therefore offers a complete change from material previously studied. Psychology is the study of the human mind and behaviour. A lively, friendly and supportive environment is promoted in lessons and students achieve highly as a result. The course revolves around the learning of psychological theories and explanations for human behaviour and the studying of the research that psychologists have conducted to support their work. There are opportunities to recreate some of these studies and analyse their procedures and results. As an indicator of content, here are some questions that will be answered during the course:

1. How can you remember a list of 30 or more random objects?
2. Why will over half of all people administer a fatal electric shock when they are ordered to?
3. Why was somebody allowed to test question 2 scientifically?
4. Why are people allowed to do animal testing in the name of science?

What course units will I take?

AS Units

Unit 1 : Memory, Child development, Research methods

Unit 2 : Stress, Conformity, Abnormality).

Two examinations, both of 90 minutes duration.

A2 Units

Unit 3 : Three topics studied in depth. A large degree of student choice is incorporated here: current topics are Biological Rhythms and Sleep, Relationships and Eating Behaviours

Unit 4 : Three further topic areas studied in depth, drawing on issues relating to mental disorders, Anomalistic Psychology and Research Methods

Two examinations, one of 90 minutes and one of 2 hours duration.

What qualifications do I need?

Although, no formal entry requirement is set (over and above those set by the Sixth Form itself), the ability to write constructively and coherently is important as is the willingness to participate in discussion. The most important criteria for entry is an interest in the subject and the eagerness to achieve your best in a challenging new subject area.

Will I take part in any study visits/field work?

The Psychology department will look out for relevant courses and events that will benefit students. In addition, the department is looking at opportunities for community links that would offer the opportunity for visits and excursions.

What can I do after the course?

Several students have gone on to study the subject at university but Psychology is a highly regarded discipline and is also useful in any career where you need to deal with people. Whether you go into teaching, law, nursing, retail or thousands of other careers, your Psychological knowledge will help you understand people and their needs.