

# Psychology

Psychology is a highly academic discipline but one that is also part of our everyday life. Defined as the 'scientific study of mental processes and behaviour', it seeks to understand human behaviour and attempts to predict how people will react in a given situation.

The course offers a fascinating, extensive and varied programme of topics, including the effects of society on behaviour, a detailed look at forensic and criminal investigations, and the origins and treatments of different psychological disorders like schizophrenia, OCD and depression. It applies both a rigorous and scientific approach to study, introducing students to the psychological research methods and the theories that underpin the subject. It develops students' ability to formulate an argument by presenting and critically evaluating research which is a key skill for higher education and the world of work.



## COURSE CONTENT

### Introductory Topics in Psychology:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachments
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

### Psychology in Context:

- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

### Issues and Options in Psychology:

- Issues and Debates
- Cognitive Development
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

## SKILLS REQUIRED

Students should have a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Science, Mathematics and a written subject (consideration will be given for lower grades). Students should have an interest in psychology and a willingness to read widely around the subject.

## ASSESSMENT

All course content is examined at the end of the 2-year course and is assessed by three written papers.

### Paper 1:

Introductory Topics in Psychology. 2 hours. 33% of final marks

### Paper 2:

Psychology in Context. 2 hours. 33% of final marks

### Paper 3:

Issues and Options in Psychology. 2 hours. 33% of final marks

## ENRICHMENT

Psychology students enjoy a range of enrichment opportunities to deepen their learning beyond the classroom. Every two years, a trip to either New York or San Francisco includes visits to key sites such as a real-life prison, alongside cultural experiences. A visit to the Freud Museum in London supports understanding of the Psychodynamic approach. Students also benefit from an exam booster workshop, and can take part in Mental Health Awareness Week. For those keen to go further, a wider reading clinic allows students to explore current research and present findings for peer discussion and critical evaluation.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

A Level Psychology can be used in a wide variety of career areas, including Educational Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Business/Consumer Psychology, police work, marketing/ advertising, nursing, teaching, social work, counselling, human resource management and speech therapy.

## EXAM BOARD

AQA 7182



Hear from our Students

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