

# PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL

We offer AQA Psychology A Level. This is a two-year qualification which enables you to experience an interesting, diverse and coherent course of study.

Throughout the course there is heavy emphasis on the acquisition of independent study skills. It is important to be able to use and apply knowledge in a challenging way, rather than relying solely on factual recall or note learning.

Our students are expected to participate in open and frank discussion activities, which build confidence and understanding. Critical awareness and thinking are vital; there are very few 'wrong' answers in this area, just differing viewpoints on the same topic. An open but analytical mind is therefore essential. The course will give experience in appraisal, data collection and analysis, the formulation of hypotheses, design and execution of practical investigations and evaluation of the importance of psychological factors for society.

The A level is challenging in its demands for time and effort - but its content holds a high level of interest and is widely considered rewarding and relevant on a personal level. Independent learning is encouraged and often proves an asset for progress into Higher Education or vocational opportunities.

## **Aims of the Course**

This qualification offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Through both class work and investigation, students are encouraged to develop skills of analysis interpretation and evaluation.

The ability to develop an understanding of ethical issues and a critical appreciation of both theory and methods used in psychology is important for success in this subject.

## **Scheme of Assessment**

This has a modular structure. The A Level comprises three compulsory assessment units, worth 33.33% each, which assess the teaching and learning modules.

These are described below:

- Paper 1** - Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology. This unit will be assessed through a 2 hour written exam in the Summer term of Year 13.
  
- Paper 2** - Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research methods. This unit will be assessed through a 2 hour written exam in the Summer term of Year 13.
  
- Paper 3** - Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing: Issues and Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Stress and Forensic Psychology. This unit will be assessed through a 2 hour written exam in the Summer term of Year 13.

## PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL continued...

### Assessment Pattern

From September 2015 there is a new qualification for A Level Psychology. A-level exams and certification for this specification are available for the first time in May/June 2017 and then every May/June for the life of the specification.

This is a linear qualification. In order to achieve the award, students must complete all exams in May/June in a single year. All assessments must be taken in the same series.

AQA assessment in A Level Psychology includes questions that allow students to demonstrate their ability to:

- draw together their skills, knowledge and understanding from across the full course of study
- provide extended responses.

Psychology is a useful subject to have at A Level and readily combines with many others. It also gives a recognised qualification in an area of academic growth and application.

Although it is not a requirement to take Psychology at A Level if you wish to study it at University it does provide an ideal foundation upon which to build.

The combination of A Levels you choose should depend upon the course you wish to follow in Higher Education.

10% of the overall assessment of Psychology will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above. 25–30% of the overall assessment will assess skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to research methods. Due to this we are requiring all students have Maths GCSE at grade C or above, along with the previously mentioned B grade in English or a Humanities subject.

### Post A Level

Psychology is extremely valid as a 'vocational' qualification and can lead into many careers. Examples of these are listed below: -

Advertising	Broadcasting	Childcare	Community Care
Education	Law	Management	Police Force
Marketing	Nursing	Personnel	Sports Coaching
Physiotherapy	Medicine		

For more information, help or advice about Psychology contact:  
Victoria Varney, Clare Teasdale or Mark Ryman  
Tel: 0116 2879921