

Psychology

A-Level

Overview

If you wish to study Psychology, it is not necessary to have studied the subject before, although an interest in human behaviour and science is advantageous. During the course you will need to be able to communicate effectively and research information from a variety of sources and will be expected to keep up-to-date with current affairs and relate these to relevant areas of Psychology.

Why Study?

The study of Psychology at A-Level will teach you to gain an understanding of psychological theories, research, case studies and methods used to collect data. You will explore topics which reflect current contemporary issues as well as earlier case studies, participate in and conduct psychological investigations, collect data, analyse your own or second hand data and evaluate your findings.

There will also be the opportunity to develop an awareness of the ethical issues in Psychology – particularly in the field of research, and to relate theories to practice and explore self-discovery.

Course Overview

Invariably students in Y12 are new to psychology therefore we offer a clearly structured introduction to the course which includes writing summaries of research, completing worksheets, practising exam questions and developing a comprehensive glossary to enable them to be psychologically literate.

Transferable learning skills such as collaborative group work, peer assessment and academic reading are developed through a variety of classroom and homework based activities which promotes critical thinking skills necessary for detailed analysis and evaluation of research data.

The first half of Y13 builds on the foundation of theory and research techniques learned in Year 12 by evaluating their practical applications in areas such as schizophrenia, addiction and gender.





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The latter half of Y13 is based around comparison of the effectiveness of the different perspectives adopted by psychologists in studying human behaviour, including their implications on philosophical debates such as our free will to make choices. The focus is on developing skills in building arguments with knowledge gained over the whole course.

Although there is no coursework component in A-level psychology, and no continuous assessment that contributes towards the final grade, students are given the opportunity to recreate key experiments and all students will carry out small scale independent or group research projects.

Progression

It is easier to ask about where psychology will not be relevant!

- Q Medicine and Healthcare – Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Mental Health Nursing
- Q Law – Barrister, Magistrate, Court Usher
- Q Charity and Not for Profit – helpline worker, Policy Advisor, Fundraiser
- Q Recruitment and HR – Recruitment Consultant, HR Officer, Training Manager
- Q Public sector – Member of Parliament, Civil Servant, Social Worker
- Q Advertising and Marketing – Copywriter, Public Relations Officer, Researcher

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