

PSYCHOLOGY



CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL
A C H I E V E M E N T F O R A L L

Course: AQA A GCE Advanced Level Psychology

Entry Requirements: GCSE English grade 5, GCSE Biology or Core/Additional Biology units at grade 5 and GCSE Maths at grade 5.

Aims of the Course:

This is a highly popular course, suitable for all students, and complements both Science and Arts subjects.

What is Psychology? '... An ongoing process of trying to gain insights into the awe-inspiring complexity of human thought and action.' Hassett (1984)

Course Content:

The course is divided into three units which are taken in Year 13 and each unit is assessed by multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. Each exam is two hours long and contributes to 33.3% of the total marks. Overall, at least 10% of the marks in assessments for Psychology will require **the use of mathematical skills.**

UNIT 1

Social Psychology – Obedience and Conformity asking ‘Why we do the things we do’?

Cognitive Psychology – Models of memory; types of long term memory and explanations of forgetting.

Developmental Psychology – Explanations of human attachment and the impact it has on relationships.

Individual Differences and Psychopathology - Defining abnormality; explaining phobias, depression and OCD; and how we treat abnormality.

UNIT 2

Approaches in Psychology – Comparing various approaches in psychology which include: the learning, cognitive, biological, psychodynamic and humanistic schools of thought.

Biological Psychology – The nervous system; the structure and functions of various neurons; the endocrine system; the fight or flight response; the functions of various parts of the brain and techniques used to study this; and biological rhythms.

Research Methods – Gathering and deploying data by studying experimental and non-experimental methods, and analysing and presenting data. This includes understanding **inferential testing and the use of algebraic symbols.**

UNIT 3

Issues and debates in psychology – a consideration of concepts such as free will and determinism; gender and cultural bias in psychology; the nature-nurture debate, etc. In this unit you will also develop knowledge, understanding and skills of analysis and evaluation in relation to **three** topics selected from the following: **Relationships, Gender, Cognition and Development, Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour, Stress, Aggression, Forensic psychology and Addiction**

Assessment: You will complete a minimum of two graded assessments per half term. Assessment will be based on content and exam technique in order to prepare students fully for the exam.

Career Opportunities:

Administration, Advertising, Architecture, Behavioural Science, Communication Studies, Education, Marketing Science, Health Studies, Hotel Management, Industrial Relations, Linguistics, Law, Marketing, Media Studies, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Publishing, Recreational Studies, Sociology, etc.

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