

determined

Psychology

How long is the course?

The full A-level qualification is two years.

Who is the course for?

This course is for anyone who is interested in the study of the human mind and behaviour; and is keen to explore a cutting edge science that has real world applications in issues ranging from artificial intelligence to social change. You should be able to take part in discussions and express your opinion clearly. You must be willing to view the world from different perspectives and be confident in analysing and interpreting data as well as planning and conducting scientific investigations

How will I be assessed?

Written exams with a combination of multiple choice, short and extended response questions.

A Level: 3 exams [96 marks & 2 hours each] sat at the end of the second year in June, one for each unit

25-30% of overall marks come from Research Methods – this is examined through a 48 mark section on Paper 2 and embedded throughout all sections on Papers 1, 2 & 3. All other topics are examined through a 24 mark section.

What could I do after the course?

This A-Level gives you a broad range of skills which could be applied to any further studying you decide to do or jobs should you wish to start working.

What else do I need to know?

Psychology is a current and relevant subject which new research being conducted and published every day, this means you are learning about the world around you and current breakthroughs. We encourage students to engage with Psychology and we offer trips, recommend books of the month, and have a psychology article folder which is regularly updated with new research!

What will I be studying?

Unit 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

Social influence - conformity, obedience and how research into social influence can bring about social change.

Memory - how we store and retrieve information; including models of memory, memory in everyday life and strategies to improve memory.

Attachment - early social development and how children develop attachments in infancy and how these can affect later adult relationships.

Psychopathology - definitions of abnormality, the characteristics, explanations and treatments of disorders, such as depression, phobias and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

challenge



Unit 2: Psychology in Context

Research methods - different research methods, an understanding of scientific processes and data handling, including the use of inferential statistics as a form of data analysis

Approaches in Psychology - origins of psychology, the emergence of psychology as a science, the basic assumptions of behaviourism, cognitive psychology, the biological approach, the psychodynamic approach and humanistic psychology.

Biopsychology – the nervous system, neurons and synaptic transmission, localisation of function in the brain, ways of studying the brain, biological rhythms.

Unit 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

Issues and Debates - explores some of the key debates in psychology such as, free-will and determinism, nature and nurture, as well as ethical issues in research and psychology as a science.

Option A – Relationships explores factors affecting attraction, different explanations for romantic relationships, relationship breakdown, virtual and parasocial relationships

Option B – Schizophrenia explores issues with the diagnosis of schizophrenia, biological and psychological causes of schizophrenia and biological and psychological treatments/therapies

Option C – Forensic Psychology – explores problems with defining crime, offender profiling, different explanations of criminal behaviour and ways of dealing with offender behaviour.

Exam Board: AQA

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