

WHY CHOOSE PSYCHOLOGY?

The human mind is the most complex machine on earth, the source of all thought and behaviour. Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind. It is a multidimensional subject which includes many sub-fields of study such as human development, health, clinical, social behaviour and cognitive processes.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

In your first year of AS you will study:

- **Approaches in Psychology:** you will learn about five psychological approaches: biological, psychodynamic, behaviourist, cognitive and positive. Each approach explains human behaviour in a slightly different way.
- **Research in Psychology:** you will learn more about how psychologists design and conduct research.

In the second year of A2 you'll deepen your understanding of psychology by looking at a range of interesting human behaviours. You will study three of the following **six behaviours**:

- Addictive behaviours
- Autistic spectrum behaviours
- Bullying behaviours
- Criminal behaviours
- Schizophrenia
- Stress

You will then apply your psychological knowledge to a range of contemporary debates:

- Cultural bias
- Ethical costs of conducting research
- Non-human animals
- Scientific status
- Sexism

Practical Research

As part of the A2 course you will review your knowledge of research methods and you will get the opportunity to undertake two of your own research projects. These can be undertaken as a class, in groups, in pairs or individually.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two exams at AS each worth 20% of your A Level qualification. Each exam lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 80 marks. The exams consist of short answer and extended writing questions.

At A-level there are also two exams. Unit 3 lasts 2 hours 30 minutes, is worth 100 marks and is 40% of your A Level qualification. Unit 4 lasts 1 hour 30 minutes, is worth 60 marks, and is worth 20% of your A Level qualification. The exams also consist of short answer and extended writing questions.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Psychology is a great subject to develop a number of transferrable skills:

- Pragmatism
- Interpersonal awareness
- Research skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Critical thinking
- Numeracy and data handling
- Communication skills
- Teamwork and leadership skills
- Better understanding of self
- Enhanced understanding of others
- Literacy

CAREERS WITH PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology can open the door to an array of career paths that requires interaction or an understanding of human behaviour and development.

The study of Psychology can lead to careers in areas such as healthcare, management, social work, research, teaching, marketing, advertising and human resources.

WHAT DO STUDENTS SAY?

Here are some quotes from students who have studied the course:

"I love that I can see a lot of what I learn about in psychology in real life and on TV. It's helped me understand criminal minds."

"The mini experiments and personal investigations were my favourite as I got to use what I had learnt and pretend to be a task psychologist... which is what I want to be."

"I enjoyed learning about the specific topics in paper 3 such as schizophrenia and criminal behaviour. Definitely feel that the research methods papers have helped massively in my psychology uni course."