

PSYCHOLOGY - A LEVEL (A Linear Course)

Course introduction

Psychology involves the scientific study of behaviour. Psychologists attempt to explain why we behave and think the way we do. It is one of the most popular subjects to study at A level because students can relate their knowledge to all areas of life. Psychology has recently been reclassified as a Science subject and this is reflected in the content at A Level.

How the course is taught

We all learn best in different ways therefore a variety of teaching strategies are employed to support your different learning styles.

Teaching/learning methods include individual, group and class activities, debates, presentations, discussions, essays, hand-outs, worksheets, quizzes, white board tests, independent research, note making, flow charts and diagrams, video/YouTube clips and use of the Internet.

Areas covered by the course

First year of A-level

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

Second year of A-level

- Issues and debates in Psychology
- Gender
- Schizophrenia
- Aggression



Entrance requirements

You must have acquired a minimum of 5 GCSEs or equivalent at 4-9 including Maths and English Language. Psychology is a rigorous, academic subject requiring good skills in English, Maths and Science. Critical thinking and evaluative skills are essential. Mathematical skills at Level 2 and above (calculations and problem solving skills) are a requirement and represent at least 10% of the overall assessment. Research methods represent at least 25-30% of the overall assessment.

How the course is assessed

Linear assessment – The A level is designed as a two year course – students would be expected to sit all of the exams at the end of Year 13.

There are three, 2 hour exams each worth 96 marks.

Career opportunities

- Careers in: clinical psychology, sports psychology, educational psychology, counselling, forensic psychology, industrial/occupational psychology, health psychology and neuropsychology
- Conducting research into many areas of Psychology (usually at a university)
- Applying research in areas such as health, business, crime and education
- Psychology graduates also go on to work in disciplines such as: marketing and Public Relations, business development, management and human resources, and public sector work including teaching, nursing and the police force.