

Psychology

Subject Leader: Miss. R. Brown
Exam Board: AQA
A Level

Psychology is a fascinating and popular subject and looks at the scientific study of the human mind, behaviour and experience. Believe it or not psychology is all around us and students will gain an insight into this through studying a range of exciting topics.

The two year A Level qualification sees students studying 3 units comprising of 11 topics over 2 years.

Paper 1:

- Social influence provides explanations of why people conform and famous research including the Milgram and Zimbardo experiments into obedience to authority figures.
- Memory, including the functions of short and long term memory, how memory can affect the legal system with eye witness testimony and explanations of forgetting.
- Attachment, including how attachments are formed with our parents and what can happen if we do not form an attachment.
- Psychopathology looks into the approaches and therapies to mental illnesses such as depression, phobias and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder?

Paper 2:

- Approaches in Psychology provides an insight into the origins of psychology and the different approaches to psychology.
- Biopsychology which focuses on the role of the nervous system, structure and function of sensory and motor neurons, ways of studying the brain and biological rhythms of sleep.
- Research methods looks at how we conduct research in Psychology, how we select participants, ethical issues when carrying out experiments and how to analyse results.

Paper 3:

- Relationships, includes the study of partner preference, factors affecting romantic relationships and virtual relationships in social media.
- Eating behaviour studies explanations for food preference, neural and hormonal mechanisms involved in the control of eating and eating disorders.
- Forensic Psychology looks at problems in defining crime, offender profiling, explanations of offender behaviour and ways to deal with this.
- Issues and debates in Psychology explores the role of gender and culture in psychology as well as nature vs nurture and other key debates.

Method of Assessment:

Each paper consists of a two hour written exam which will be assessed at the end of the two year course.