

Psychology

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is a diverse and fascinating subject that tackles the subject of the mind and human behaviour by using scientific research methods. Psychologists aim to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us and use this understanding to help us tackle personal and social problems. Studying Psychology will develop your experience and understanding of scientific theory, mathematics & research skills, history and essay writing, so it can compliment a range of subjects. You will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and many more that will prepare you for an exciting future with the possibility of a range of fantastic careers.

Entry requirements

Securing a B grade at GCSE in English, Science and Mathematics will guarantee your place on this course. C grades in these subjects may be accepted following consultation with the Head of Psychology and Head of Sixth Form.

Course details and assessment format

AS (2 units)

Unit 1 Psychology Past to Present

Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes: 20% of qualification

Compulsory questions relating to five psychological approaches and classic pieces of research.

Unit 2 Using Psychological Concepts

Section A: Contemporary debate One question linked to the given debates.

Section B: Principles of research and application of research methods.

Compulsory questions on the theory of psychological research (including the work of social and developmental psychologists). Application of research methods to a novel scenario Compulsory questions requiring a response to a piece of research previously unseen.

A Level (the above plus a further 2 units)

Unit 3 Implications in the Real World

Written examination 2 hours 30 minutes : 40% of qualification

Section A: The study of behaviours Three structured essays from a choice of six.

Section B: Controversies in psychology One question from a choice of two requiring a synoptic exploration of psychological controversies.

Unit 4 Applies Research Methods

Written examination 1 hour 30 minute: 20% of qualification

Section A: Personal investigations Compulsory questions based on investigative activities carried out prior to the assessment.

Section B: Application of research methods to novel scenarios Compulsory questions requiring a response to pieces of research.

Skills which are developed and possible progression

You will develop transferable skills that support study in a wide range of subjects at university and the transition to employment, including quantitative and analytical analysis, and forming and testing hypotheses. Due to the diversity of the subject, Psychology may also offer a suitable foundation for the following careers: Community Work, Armed Forces, Advertising, Marketing, Civil Service, Politics, Television Research, Journalist, Forensic Science, Public Relations, Human Resources, Police, Probation Work, Criminology, Business, Administration, Social Care, Medicine, Nursing, Law

"Such a fun subject to study. Learning about how we came to be who we are and how we evolved as people is so interesting. Instead of just learning facts, you can apply your learnings to yourself, friends and family in a real relatable way, making the subject so different to most others."

Alexandra Sidley-Brooks

"Psychology has given me a new outlook on the inner working of the human mind and to the various methods that can be used to improve the quality of life for mental health and brain damage related patients."

George Yarldey

"Studying psychology as an A level has helped me develop transferable skills such as critical thinking and effective essay writing which have aided me in my other subjects. My psychology A level has also inspired me to continue studying psychology next year."

Elin Menai Thurlow

