



Psychology



STUDY LEVEL

A level

CONTACT DETAILS

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Psychology is a practical and engaging course; the specification provides insight into, and experience of, how psychology works, stimulating curiosity and encouraging an engagement with psychology in our everyday lives.

What will I study?

Psychology is a challenging but rewarding course. You will develop skills relating to problem-solving, organisation and initiative that are in demand in the workplace. You will study topics such as responses to people in need, the development of phobias and children's moral development. You will also focus on a further range of topics including forensic psychology, health and clinical psychology and sport psychology.

Co-curricular activities?

Throughout the year we welcome guest speakers to the College that have included a forensic psychologist, an educational psychologist and several health care

professionals. Our students run the popular Psychology Society too which allows for the opportunity to immerse yourself in the course whilst having fun debates.

Recent trips have including a visit to the Old Bailey and Euro Disney, where students engaged in the Psychology Live conferences.

Where might it lead?

Psychology is a very helpful subject for many possible careers or courses in Higher Education. Whilst it is clearly relevant for careers/courses in the caring professions such as clinical psychology or social work, it is also relevant to many more such as medicine, computer science, scientific and social research,

journalism, advertising and market research, nursing, criminology, counselling, management, personnel management, design studies, anthropology, clinical psychology, teaching, pharmacy and biology.

Some of our students have gone on to study Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy or related courses. Psychology can be studied in Higher Education in combination with many other subjects.

Course Breakdown

Course Summary

- Exam board is OCR

Paper	Content	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Research Methods	90	2 hours	30%
Paper 2	Psychological themes through core studies	105	2 hours	35%
Paper 3	Applied psychology	105	2 hours	35%

Summary of Content

Research methods

You will become familiar with the four main techniques for collecting and analysing data. These are self-report, experiment, observation and correlation. You will also need to be familiar with planning and conducting research, data recording, analysis and presentation, report writing and science in psychology. You will carry out your own small scale practical activities and reflect on your experiences.

Psychological themes through core studies

This section will assess your knowledge and understanding of the core studies as well as your ability to evaluate the studies both on their own and in relation to the study they have been paired with. The core studies are placed within a broad area of investigation. Within each area, you are required to examine four core studies. These core studies are paired together around key themes. For each key theme, you need to examine both a classic and a contemporary study. For example when studying Social psychology, one key theme is responses to people in authority so the classic research by Milgram focuses on obedience and the contemporary research by Bocchiaro et al focuses on disobedience and whistleblowing.

Applied Psychology

This component is studied in year 2 of the course and consists of one compulsory section: Issues in mental health. You will also study two further applied psychology options which are Criminal psychology and Sports and exercise psychology. You will learn to apply methodological issues and debates in psychology, recognise the contribution the key research has made to the topic, and apply your knowledge to suggest ways in which improvements can be made to society.

Suggested Preparation for September

Psychology is a popular subject that can be studied at University on its own or in combination with other subjects. It is useful for many careers (e.g. Teaching, Police, Social Work, Nursing, Personnel). Have a look at the British Psychological Society website for more information about the area of psychology you may be interested in and to find out about different types of psychologists roles. Additionally any reading you can complete around the subject from a standard psychology book will give you a head start on the course. For exam board specific books please contact the psychology department for suggestions.