

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the science of the mind and behaviour. Within the course we investigate, for example, how the brain works, why people behave in certain ways and what happens when the brain functions abnormally. Psychology produces students who have the ability to analyse and evaluate their ideas and put forward an informed argument, aware of individual, social and cultural diversity.

The AQA Psychology course is an excellent introduction to the subject. The course is useful for those who intend reading Psychology at university; for those who think an insight into the mind and behaviour would be a useful supplement for other courses or careers; and for those who are simply looking for an interesting subject that contains many of the skills essential to the world of work.

The subject is based around essay and report writing. Other skills acquired during the course include computing skills (e.g. word processing, spreadsheets, and Internet searching), simple mathematical and statistical procedures, debating and researching your own ideas. Further activities have included visits to the zoo for fieldwork and attendance at a conference.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No specific GCSE subjects are required, but the core GCSE subjects (Mathematics, English and Science) are a good foundation.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Psychology has links with topics taught in Physical Education, Biology, Religious Studies, Home Economics and Statistics.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Psychology is a standard science A-level and so it is recognised by all universities without specific requirements. Related careers would include clinical psychology, occupational psychology, research, general management, ergonomics, advertising, social work, health education, law or police work.

COURSE CONTENT

The AS units are:

Two units, which cover the topics of human memory, infant attachment, research methods, stress, abnormal psychology and social influence.

The A2 units are:

Two units, which cover topics from social, cognitive, developmental and physiological psychology – for example options include sleep, eating and gender development. The final unit acts as a synoptic paper, looking at the different approaches and topical issues in the subject.

