

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the science of the mind and behaviour. Within the course we investigate 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 A-level Psychology course is an excellent introduction to the subject. The course is useful for those who intend to read 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 Computer Science 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 attending conferences.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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

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

AQA Psychology A-level is classed as a science and so it is recognised by all universities. Related careers would include Clinical Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Research, General Management, Ergonomics, Advertising, Social Work, Health Education, Law or Police work.

COURSE CONTENT

Awarding Body: AQA

Paper 1: Memory, Attachments, Abnormal Psychology, and Social Influence.

Paper 2: approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, and Research Methods

Paper 3: Three options including Gender, Schizophrenia, and Forensic Psychology along with issues and debates in Psychology.

