

Psychology



Information for
students and parents

PSYCHOLOGY

WHY PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Psychologists observe and conduct experiments to find out more about the way people act and interact. They try to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us and use this understanding to help us tackle personal and social problems. Psychologists can work in social care, mental health, education, business, research and sports. The AQA awarding body classes Psychology as a science A-level and it is accepted by all universities.

SO WHAT EXACTLY DO WE STUDY?

Below are examples of the sorts of questions that are asked during the course:

Developmental Psychology:	How do early experiences shape our futures? How do we develop our gender identity?
Social Psychology:	Why do people obey other people? How do social norms in society change?
Research Methods:	Learn how to carry out research by designing, carrying out and analysing your own experiments, surveys, interviews and observations.
Cognitive Psychology:	How can you improve your memory for exams? Is eyewitness testimony reliable?
Approaches in Psychology:	What was Freud's influence in psychology? Is my future set by my biology?
Biological Psychology:	How does the brain process language and speech? Do genes play a role in criminal behaviour?
Issues in Psychology:	How can you compare research from different countries? What does research tell us about freewill?
Psychopathology:	What are the biological roots of OCD? How does CBT work with depression?

For more general information about psychology and examples of ideas discussed in A-level classes, go to:

www.simplypsychology.org

And to explore ideas further:

www.ted.com/topics/psychology

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examinations consist of short essays and structured questions. There is no coursework in the chosen specification.

HOW IS THE COURSE ORGANISED?

As with all subjects in The Maynard, the students are taught in small, friendly groups to enable all of them to participate confidently. Other skills acquired during the course include computing skills (using, for example, PowerPoint, Excel and Word), simple mathematical and statistical procedures, debating and researching your own ideas. We attend lectures out of school and visit Paignton Zoo as part of the Lower 6 Research Methods section.

SUBJECT CONTENT

Compulsory content

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods
- Issues and debates in psychology

Option 1 (one of these topics)

- Relationships
- Gender*
- Cognition and development

Option 2 (one of these topics)

- Schizophrenia*
- Eating behaviour
- Stress

Option 3 (one of these topics)

- Aggression
- Forensic psychology*
- Addiction



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