

WHY CHOOSE PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology at A Level is a bridge between science and arts. It is the science of mind and behaviour. It is a research-based course in applied psychology and deals with questions as, “Why do I behave like this?”, “Why do I feel like this?” and “Why do I think like this?”.

There is the opportunity to apply psychological knowledge in a variety of ways. Group work, discussions, case studies, experiments and presentations are all part of the teaching.

HOW USEFUL WILL IT BE?

Psychology A Level is acceptable as a science subject for entry to many Higher Education courses. It also gives a fascinating insight into human behaviour.

The OCR Psychology syllabus is a joint content and skills-based course. It provides knowledge, understanding, enjoyment and the ability to work with and evaluate information. The skills learned are transferable.

WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO DO TO BE SUCCESSFUL?

To study this subject you will need a minimum of five GCSE subjects at Grade A*-C. You must be willing to argue and question, be able to apply your knowledge, look at the implications of what you have learned and be able to examine the meanings, bias and relationship of psychology to everyday life.

You need to be willing to examine and undertake individual research: academic (literature-based) and practical (investigations into human behaviour, using human participants).

You will need at least a C grade in Maths and English and BC in Science. Students studying Foundation Science may be considered following consultation with Miss Nichols and their Science teacher.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY ON THE COURSE IN YEAR 12 – THE AS LEVEL?

At AS Level core studies in five areas of psychology are covered: Cognitive, Social, Developmental, Physiological and Individual Differences; Research Methods include completing a laboratory notebook.

HOW IS THE AS LEVEL ASSESSED?

There will be two examinations covering Core Psychology and Psychological Investigations.



WHAT WILL YOU STUDY ON THE COURSE IN YEAR 13 – THE A2 LEVEL?

At A2 Level students will study Psychology as it is applied to two everyday topics e.g. Health, Education or Crime. Students will also look at broad themes and issues relevant across psychology and focus further on how psychological knowledge arises from research. Students are examined on their ability to apply research principles to novel situations.

HOW IS THE A2 LEVEL ASSESSED?

There will be two examinations in June.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOU HAVE TO SPEND ON PRIVATE STUDY / RESEARCH?

AS Level: at least 4 hours per week.

A2 Level: at least 5 hours per week.

