

A Level Psychology

Examination Board: AQA

Specification Code: 7182 – A Level

Why Psychology?

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. This course provides the student with an awareness of the psychological and physical processes that encompass our daily living routines. This A Level is an absorbing and current subject, which can change not only the academic future of the students that undertake the course, but also the way in which they perceive the world around them. The course itself comprises of studies of real-life psychological experiments and the student is required to adopt a very critical and analytical approach to every theory covered, no matter how controversial and shocking it may be.

Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements will apply and in addition students are expected to achieve at least two 6 grades in GCSE science or equivalent.

Course Content

Year 1

Topics Include:

Social Influence – How humans conform to social roles, explanations for obedience why some people obey and others don't.

Memory – exploring short term and long term memory and the working memory model. Factors affecting the accuracy of memory will also be explored.

Attachment – exploring the types of attachment that both humans and animals display including theories of maternal deprivation.

Students also learn about Psychology in Context:

Psychological approaches, Biopsychology, Psychopathology, Research Methods, The Scientific Process, Data Handling and Analysis.

Year 2

Students will study Issues and Debates in Psychology such as Gender, Free Will, Determinism, the Nature, Nurture debate and will then be directed in the learning of three of the following options: Relationships, Gender, Cognition and Development, Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour, Stress, Aggression, Forensic Psychology and Addiction.

Students will be encouraged to undertake practical research and develop independent research skills. Extended writing answers will require skills of analysis, evaluation, application and effective written communication. Students will need to organise and structure their knowledge and understanding of contemporary topics to develop clear lines of argument.

Prospects

Psychology incorporates the most challenging aspects of a variety of subjects such as science, maths and English. It therefore is a superb qualification in terms of university options. Career-wise, a degree that encompasses psychology will open up an extremely vast array of future employment opportunities, ranging from an actual chartered psychologist to any job that demands a good understanding of people and their behaviour.

Contacts

Please contact Mr. M. Betts, Head of Department, if you wish to discuss this qualification further.