

Psychology

At AS Level students develop a solid understanding of a range of psychological theories. In order to achieve this aim, students will question a range of hypotheses: the role of early relationships as an infant to adulthood development; what causes psychological abnormalities and how they can be treated; can theories of conformity and obedience explain war; and how accurate memories are when giving evidence as an eye witness in a court of law.

A2 Level is designed to build on the knowledge gained at AS and looks in greater depth at real world psychological issues, such as Relationships, Aggression and Schizophrenia. At this level students will gain an understanding of how Psychologists work in applied settings. Science is very much at the heart of the course and thus requires you to critically consider the types of methods used by Psychologists to study human beings. For this part of the course you will be an active Psychologist and have the opportunity to design and test hypotheses.

Students who take Psychology tend to enjoy thinking critically; do not accept what they read and are interested in human behaviour. Psychology students will be expected, in the classroom, to engage in debates and discussions and take an active stance in their learning. Furthermore, the majority of the course involves essay writing, thus the ideal student will need to be strong in this area.

ASSESSMENT and CONTENT

AS Psychology (Year 1) This consists of 2 separate exam papers

• Social Influence	• Approaches in psychology
• Memory	• Psychopathology
• Attachment	• Research Methods

A2 Psychology (Year 2) This consists of 1 additional paper.

• Aggression
• Relationships
• Schizophrenia
• Biopsychology

Students will be entered for a full A Level at the end of Year 2 where they will sit all 3 exam papers. Students will gain their final A Level qualification at the end of Year 2.

Psychologists work in areas such as business, clinical and counselling, health, education, sports, academic circles and forensics. In order to achieve many of these, the next step would be to undertake a Psychology degree and specialise thereafter.

The course requirements...

Grade 6 or higher in English or Psychology GCSE