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FORM

Advanced Level

PSYCHOLOGY



Subject Information Sheet



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Course Aims:

Psychology literally translates as 'the study of the human mind' – but Psychology is more than this. Psychology is everywhere around us. It is intriguing, it is emotional, it is scientific and above all, it is thought provoking. This course offers you the opportunity to learn about the science behind human behaviour by understanding how research is conducted and used to develop theories and laws about human behaviour.

This course will develop skills highly valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills.

Core maths must be taken alongside this course, if you are not taking A-Level Maths.

Course Content and Assessment:

Assessment is through three externally set papers:

Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology

Paper 1 will examine 4 compulsory units such as Social Influence, Memory, Attachment & Psychopathology.

Paper 2 Psychology in Context

Paper 2 will comprise of 4 further compulsory units such as Approaches in Psychology, Bio Psychology & Research Methods.

Paper 3 Issues and Options in Psychology

The third paper comprises optional units such as Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology. Each paper will consist of multiple choice, short answer, extended writing and research methods questions.

Each paper is worth 33.3% of the A level.

A Level Overview:

Subject Content of the A Level

Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Psychology in context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods
- Scientific processes
- Data handling and analysis
- Inferential testing

Issues and **options** in Psychology

- Issues and debates in Psychology
- Relationships
- Gender
- Cognitive and development
- Schizophrenia
- Eating behaviour
- Aggression
- Forensic Psychology
- Addiction

Learning Methods:

A typical lesson will involve discussion and debating around key topics and issues. Mathematical skills are a crucial element of Psychology lessons and we focus on developing these skills each lesson. Some lessons will involve independent study and others will comprise group work to help supplement our knowledge and understanding.

Career Opportunities:

Many students who are taught A-Level psychology go on to study in higher education. This subject is considered a science subject so can support an application into medical degrees. There are a wealth of psychology degrees which could lead you into a career path of working with offenders in prisons for rehabilitation. Working in clinical psychology with patients experiencing mental health problems. Working in education as a educational psychologist, where you could be counselling children. Child psychology enables you to support young children in varying services including residential children's homes and assisting in trauma.

Entry Requirements:

- Grade 5 or above in English
- Grade 5 or above in Maths.
- You should have a strong GCSE profile overall.

Staff Contacts

Mrs McCarthy - Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 5

Mrs Boyton - Quality of Education Lead Key Stage 5

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Web Link Address

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