



Course Requirements

Sixth Form Entry Requirement
plus
GCSE English Language - Grade 5
and Grade 5 in a Science subject
and GCSE Mathematics - Grade 5

Syllabus

AQA

Who to Contact

Mr D Vernon
Course Leader

Overview

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. It combines a focus on understanding people with the analysis and interpretation of data. Studying Psychology enables the student to consider human behaviour from many different perspectives and to think critically about its causes and consequences. It is a hugely popular subject with cutting-edge research being developed all the time, exploring areas such as neuroscience (the study of the brain), psychopathology (the study of psychological disorders) and forensic psychology (the study of criminal behaviour).

In their lessons, students will play the roles of both as participant and experimenter as we replicate classic studies from the 20th Century. For example, Solomon Asch's research on how group pressure can influence us to give incorrect answers in lessons – even when we know they're wrong!

A variety of teaching and learning methods are used to teach this subject such as practical activities, independent research, group debates and presentations as well as extended writing.

Psychology is a science subject, which combines well with any other discipline. It is accepted by many prestigious universities as a science A Level. There is also some mathematical content, as we look at data collection and statistics. However, it also combines well with Humanities subjects as it appeals to students with a general interest in people and their behaviour. Popular combinations are with Sociology, History, Maths and Economics.

Structure

Psychology is a two year linear course.

In the first year of study, topics studied include Memory, Social Influence, Attachment, Approaches and Psychopathology.

In the second year students enjoy learning about Biopsychology, Schizophrenia, Relationships and the very popular topic of Forensic Psychology.

There are 3 examinations at the end of the A-level course, each with equal weighting to the overall grade.

You

The type of person suited to this course will have a deep interest in human behaviour, will be able to accept differences of opinion and be able to express an opinion of their own.

Students will become highly numerate and skilled in statistical analysis. They will learn skills of critical evaluation which is a highly desirable life skill.

Psychology is a challenging and stimulating course which is very rewarding for students prepared to work hard.

In terms of careers, Psychologists can train to work in various specialised fields including: Clinical psychology (working with people who have mental health problems), forensic or prison psychology, occupational psychology (business), educational psychology and research. It can be applied to a variety of occupational settings such as sport, law, nursing, child care, and teaching. It can be used and applied to every job which involves working with people.