

## Type of course – A Level

### Course Overview

What makes us who we are; is it our genes, is it the environment around us? Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour.

Psychologists apply scientific methodology to explain human behaviour. They formulate theories, test hypotheses through observation and experiment, and analyse their reports with statistical techniques that help them identify important findings. The course appeal to students who enjoy exploring issues dealing with how and why people behave in certain ways and who want to find out more about peoples behaviour and their environment. They will also enjoy planning and carrying out investigations to look for any patterns and explanations in the behaviour of children and adults.

### Course Content

#### Social Psychology

Where we will examine aspects of human behaviour that involve the individual's relationship to other persons, groups and society, including cultural influences on behaviour. In particular this topic will look at obedience.

#### Cognitive Psychology

Where we will examine the role of cognition/cognitive processes in human behaviour, in particular focusing on memory.

#### Biological Psychology

Where we will examine the mechanisms within our body and understand how they affect our behaviour, focusing on aggression.

#### Learning Theories

Where we will examine learning from the environment and of the effects of conditioning, reinforcement, punishment, the role of reward and social learning on the organism.

#### Clinical Psychology

Where we will be explaining mental health issues and the different ways of treating them, including counselling and drug treatment.

#### Child Psychology

Where we will examine the development of the individual before birth to adolescence and beyond, in that what we experience as a child affects out later development.

#### Psychological Skills

Where we will understand conceptual and methodological issues within psychology. We will develop an understanding of hoe to use theories and evidence from many areas of psychology and apply them to the issues.

### Assessment

#### Paper 1: Foundations of Psychology

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 90 marks
- 35% of A Level grade

#### Paper 2: Applications of Psychology

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 90 marks
- 35% of A Level grade

#### Paper 3: Psychological skills

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks
- 30% of A Level grade

## Careers and Opportunities for Further Study

Psychology is one of the most popular subjects to study because it has a big impact on all areas of life, from education and health, to the economy and crime.

Careers within Psychology involve:

- Making sure people are happy at work and perform to the best of their abilities
- Supporting the police, courts and prison service to perform more effectively
- Assisting athletes and sports people to perform better
- Helping people overcome depression, stress, trauma or phobias
- Easing the effects of parental divorce on children
- Speeding up recovery from brain injury
- Helping stop or preventing bullying at school or in the workplace
- Ensuring that school pupils and students are being taught in the most effective way

## Entry Requirements

English Language grade 6, Maths grade 5 and Science grade 6