

PSYCHOLOGY

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Examination board: AQA 7182



*“If you are thinking of studying Psychology at A Level, you will be encouraged to ask questions as well as answer them, evaluate key studies relevant to **contemporary issues**, discuss the **scientific** implications and applications of research, and the **methodological** problems surrounding some of the research we cover. You’ll need to not be afraid to step out of your comfort zone either.”*



PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Topics of study are wide-ranging and our teachers like to try new things, such as using biscuits, sweets, playdoh and Lego™ in lessons. Studying the mind and behaviour is a key area of study, so you’ll need to master experimental and statistical design, brain functions, language and speech disorders, sleep and cognitive functioning, as well as psychopathologies (such as schizophrenia, OCD, depression, phobias and addictive behaviour).

One of the fascinating areas of study is neuroscience. In this area brain injuries and disorders, such as locked-in syndrome, are explored and investigated using PET and fMRI equipment, so it is useful to think of studying Biology and/or Physics alongside Psychology.

You’ll find Psychology to be a subject that is constantly embracing new ideas thanks to continuous advances in the explanations of human and animal behaviour. You’ll certainly be kept on your toes throughout the course.

ASSESSMENT

- Three exams at the end of the second year.
- In addition to these exams, you’ll need to have a solid grasp of the application of psychological theory and principles, and have a clear and solid grounding in scientific methods. You’ll be required to conduct small-scale investigations on your own so a good understanding of statistics and manipulating data is also useful.

FUTURE PLANS

Psychology is a good foundation for application to professional programmes such as medicine, social work, nursing, training into human and animal communication and behaviour disorders, law and the elements of the Criminal Justice system.