



A Level Psychology



Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the brain and behaviour. Why do we do the things we do? To what extent is our behaviour the result of our genetic inheritance as opposed to how we are brought up?

Psychologists help us gain answers to questions like these by carrying out specific research into different aspects of human behaviour.

Exam Board:



Overview of course content

A Level (specification code: 7182)

Examination	% of total qualification
Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology	33.3%
Paper 2 - Psychology in Context	33.3%
Paper 3 - Issues & Options in Psychology	33.3%

Within this course, you will investigate the following:

Social Influence - looking at explanations for why we obey/do not obey others and reasons why we conform to roles

Memory - looking at providing explanations of how we remember things, what affects our memory and how we can improve our memory

Psychopathology - looking at characteristics of OCD, depression and phobias, including explanations and treatments

Attachment - looking at different attachment types, theories of the formation of attachment, and consequences if attachment is not formed

Biological Psychology - looking at the biological aspects of our behaviour, e.g. what do different parts of our brain control?

Approaches - looking at multiple approaches to explain behaviour, including learning, evolution and Freud's psychodynamic theory of development

Research Methods - looking at the methods of conducting psychological studies and analysis of findings

Issues and Debates - looking at the critical issues and debates that occur in psychology, e.g. is all behaviour determined, or do we have choice?

Option Topics - Year 13 is the study of three options, chosen by your teacher from the following: Relationships, Gender, Cognition & Development; Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour, Stress; or Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Addiction.

Additional Reading

- The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales **by Oliver Sacks**
- The Lost Boys: Inside Muzafer Sherif's Robbers Cave Experiment **by Gina Perry**
- The Lucifer Effect: How Good People Turn Evil **by Philip Zimbardo**
- Obedience to Authority: An Experimental View (a recommended read in the school library)



Careers/Future Opportunities

Psychology is universally acceptable for admission to courses of higher education and is recognised as an academic qualification by all employers. The transferable skills learnt on the course alone makes all psychology students highly employable. It is particularly relevant to occupations that involve working with people and is part of the training of teachers (e.g. educational psychologists), health professionals (e.g. counsellors, clinical psychologists, neuropsychologists), the forensic sector (e.g. police officers and magistrates) and social workers.

If you have any questions, please contact:
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