



PSYCHOLOGY

DETAILS OF COURSE:

The specification studied is AQA Psychology

At AS, candidates will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas of psychology (social, cognitive, developmental, biological and individual differences) as well as research methods through a range of topics, chosen for their accessibility and popularity.

Unit 1 will cover:

- Social influence: Including reasons for conformity, obedience and independent behaviour
- Memory: Including models of memory, explanations for forgetting, eye witness testimony
- Attachment: Including explanations of attachment, the influence of childhood on adult relationships and Bowlby's maternal deprivation hypothesis

Unit 2 will cover:

- Approaches in psychology: Learning approaches, biological approaches, cognitive approaches
- Biopsychology: The nervous system, the fight or flight response, the role of neurotransmitters
- Psychopathology: Characteristics and explanations of OCD, phobias and depression
- Research methods: Experimental methods, the scientific process, data handling and collection, inferential testing

At A2, the specification offers a range of topic-based options which bring together explanations from different psychological approaches and engage students in issues and debates in psychology.

As well as completing units 1 and 2, at A2 level students will be required to study:

Unit 3

- Candidates study three topics from a variety of areas in psychology, for instance Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic psychology.
- Issues and debates in psychology: Gender bias, free will vs determinism, ethical implications of research in psychology

QUALITIES AND COMMITMENT EXPECTED FROM THE STUDENT:

Good essay writing skills

Scientific inquiry skills and an understanding of the design of experiments

Mathematical skills in areas such as arithmetic, algebra, data handling and graphs.

An interest in human behaviour

The ability to think and contribute to lessons

A wish to 'read around' the subject

**ASSESSMENT:**

At AS, two 1 hour and 30 minute written papers.

At A2, three 2 hour written papers

THE FUTURE:

Psychology A level is recognised by all Universities and many past students have gone on to study the subject at degree level. Psychology is especially useful in any field where an understanding of human behaviour might prove useful and opportunities exist, for example, mental health, sport, business and personnel management. As a science subject, Psychology compliments other science A levels, particularly Biology and would support any Science based degree.