



PSYCHOLOGY A-LEVEL

WHY SHOULD I STUDY A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY?

The A-level Psychology course is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour, and as such provides students with a fascinating insight into the world around us and how to interact with others. Being a mixture of both the theoretical and practical aspects of science, pupils will study how the brain works and what drives our behaviour as well as psychological therapies and treatments. So, if you find the prospect of understanding why people act the way they do, and if you are open to challenging your own, and others' opinions and values, then this course is certainly for you.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The Edexcel Psychology course is broken down into the following units:

Social Psychology:

Issues such as obedience, prejudice, personality and cultural influences on social behaviour.

Cognitive Psychology:

Include perception, memory, selective attention, language and problem solving.

Biological Psychology:

The mechanisms within our body and how they affect our behaviour, focusing on aggression.

Learning Theories:

The effects of conditioning, reinforcement, punishment, the role of reward and social learning on the organism. Clinical Psychology: explaining mental health issues, and the different ways of treating them, including counselling and drug treatments.

Child Psychology:

Considers the emotional development of children, focusing specifically on the role of attachment in early infancy, and its influence on later development.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Pupils will take 3 written exams:

Paper 1

Foundations of Psychology (35%)

Paper 2

Applications of psychology (35%)

Paper 3

Psychological Skills (30%). These papers will test pupils' abilities using a mixture of short answer, extended answer, and data response questions.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The Psychology course will involve the development of essay writing skills, data collection, data analysis and statistics and interpretation of evidence. It will allow you to critically analyse and question your own opinions on issues, as well as that of others. You will also develop a new insight into human behaviour and an understanding of differences in the people around you, helping to build your communication skills and improving your teamwork and leadership skills.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Psychology is useful for any job that requires lots of interaction or an understanding of human behaviour and development. Psychology skills are therefore sought after in business, management, teaching, research, journalism, marketing, social work, and medical/healthcare careers. Since the subject occupies a niche between the Sciences and the Arts, it is valued by both when considering pupils are applying for higher education.

Exam Board: Edexcel

