

Psychology - Curriculum Overview

Our ultimate aim is to produce students who are curious about the human condition and to nurture the next generation of Psychologists. Students will be provided with a variety of opportunities to understand and demonstrate how their work is applicable to the wider world.

A good psychologist has a clear understanding of the core concepts that underpin this scientific discipline and are able to use this knowledge to apply it to a wide range of situations both practically and written. Our curriculum promotes resilience, independent thinking and creativity. It encourages and facilitates further studies or potential careers in the subject, whilst empowering students to have a greater appreciation and awareness of Psychology related issues in the world around them.

As part of the A Level specification students will be learning about all manner of interesting topics exploring human behaviour. This will include mental health (psychopathology unit, looking at phobias, depression, and OCD), attachment (including how your early childhood influences your future relationships, and what happens to children whose attachment is disrupted), social influence (why people follow orders, why you go along with a group even if you don't agree etc.), memory (including eyewitness testimony in the criminal justice system), biopsychology (all about the human body and how it controls your actions, including what each part of the brain is responsible for and what happens if we damage our brain), and key approaches (what underpins all of psychology). This will be covered in year 1.

In year 2 we will also explore Forensics (including debates such as criminal born or made and are prisons effective), and relationships (who are you most likely to get into a relationship with), and schizophrenia (a much misrepresented mental health disorder). Across the two years, we will be studying research methods – which underpins everything psychologists do, since it is only through research that we can conduct our experiments on people!

Course	Year 1-2: Psychology		
Module/Unit/Subject	Paper 1: 7182/1 – Psychology in Context Paper 2: 7182/2 – Introductory Topics in Psychology	Awarding Body	AQA

Rationale	Develop critical understanding of how human society is researched engagement with text; documentaries and experiments Examine multi-perspective and critical approaches to understanding issues around psychological topics such as memory Become independent in research skills and their application in psychological research and in develop personal views and interpretations
Prior Learning	5 5 and 6 including English, Science and Maths. An interest in human experience in society; good written and creative skills for essay writing
Progression	Progression to HE. HE Courses in Psychology; Counselling Research in Social and Bio psychology
Arrangements in place for delivery of the module	2 year course 9 hours per fortnight Homework set weekly. The work set will usually be formative assessment (this is assessment for learning) but students will also be required to complete summative assessment (assessment of learning).
Differentiation	Worksheets and ppt has fully differentiated activities. These are created to stretch the most able and to help those who need it. Pair and group work will be used frequently
Key Skills / Functional Skills / Literacy & Numeracy	Students will be required to learn and participate in the following ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal note taking 2. Verbal explanations 3. Discussion/Debate 4. Group/Pair work 5. Independent Research 6. Examination Preparation 7. Peer marking/Self-Assessment 8. Timed Essays/Exam Questions 9. GW: Group Work; CA: Class Activity; PW: Pair Work; IA: Individual Activity
Employability Skills	Students will be required to develop their independent and critical thinking skills, will have to work to strict deadlines and will research intensively throughout the course for statistics
Equality and Diversity	Students will be focusing on representation of age, gender and ethnicity among other things and will be forced to analyse why equality and diversity can be said to be lacking in the media