

AS/A2 PSYCHOLOGY

Entry requirements:

Grade C or above in English and Grade C in Mathematics

Examination board:

AQA Specification B

Teachers:

Mrs W Oakley, Mr A Cowen, Miss E Smith

Timetable organisation

All Psychology AS/A2 classes are taught by two psychology teachers who cover the syllabus between them in 5 lessons per week. Teaching in Psychology is of a very high quality and all students are supported in their studies.

AS students spend the first term studying Unit 1 and are examined in January. Unit 2 follows in the second term, with the examination in May. The pattern is similar in A2. Work on Unit 3 begins in the third term of year 12 and the examination follows in January. The final Unit follows and is examined in June

Main Syllabus areas

AS: Unit 1 explores the work of the "famous names" in Psychology, such as Freud and Pavlov. It then covers the physiological basis of behaviour and the concepts of gender development. It also covers the main research methods used in psychology and addresses issues raised by the use of experimental and non-experimental methods.

Unit 2 covers three popular topic areas within Psychology. **Social psychology** looks at how the presence of others can influence our behaviour.

Cognitive psychology considers how our memory works and the related issue of forgetting and **Individual differences** explores the nature and possible causes of anxiety disorders (such as phobias) and autism.

A2: Unit 3 explores the child's cognitive development, the nature and possible

Main Syllabus area (cont..)

causes of depression and/ or schizophrenia and criminal psychology

Unit 4 draws together all of the material covered on the course, to address broader issues such as:

The main debates in psychology, for example the nature v nurture debate and the main perspectives in psychology and their strengths and weaknesses

Method of assessment

The AS units are worth 50% each of your mark at AS and 25% each for the whole A level. The other 50% of your A level mark comes from the 2 units studied in year 13. There are opportunities for re-takes, if required.

Qualities required

You will need to be able to work independently and be willing to enter into class discussions. You will need to develop the ability to present ideas, supported by evidence, in structured, effective essays and you will need good time management skills.

Links with other subjects

Psychology is compatible with most other A levels. It works well with both science and arts subjects.

Most frequent combinations include sociology, biology, geography, film studies and sport.

There are no prohibited combinations

Career prospects

A psychology qualification is preparation for many careers. Some students work as professional psychologists in the clinical, criminal, educational or occupational fields. Many others use their skills and knowledge in other careers, such as physiotherapy, education, advertising, social work or personnel work.

Extension and enrichment opportunities

Opportunity to attend revision conferences and the "Exploring Psychology" conference.