

PSYCHOLOGY A-LEVEL

For more information please see Miss Champion

For whom is this course suitable?

Psychology is both an applied and academic field that studies the human mind and behaviour. Research in psychology seeks to understand and explain how humans think, act and feel. Psychology evolved out of both philosophy and biology. Psychology is a fairly new discipline that attempts to understand the role of mental functions in individual and group behaviour, while also exploring the physiological and neurobiological processes that underlie certain cognitive functions of behaviour.

The course is suitable for students who are interested in;

- The way people behave and reasons for this
- A 'cutting edge' subject where new research and information is emerging all the time
- A subject that helps to develop the ability to debate concepts and evidence and make valid judgements.

There is no need to have any knowledge of psychology before commencing the course. Most students quickly get used to the way the subject operates and the language used. Students studying psychology will have achieved at least a grade 5 in Maths and Combined Science.

What will I learn on this course?

The first year of the course covers topics that include:

- **Psychological approaches:** based on different eras, we look into whether behavior is due to genetics, the way we think, the role of the unconscious, or if behavior is learnt.
- **Psychopathology:** Causes of abnormality, depression, OCD and phobias and how to effectively treat abnormalities.
- **Memory:** We investigate how and what we remember, factors affecting memory, and how memory is influenced in eye-witness testimony when convicting criminals.
- **Attachment:** Why parent-child attachment is important for healthy psychologically developed adulthood and the effects of breaking this attachment at the wrong times.
- **Research Methods:** Understanding how psychologists complete research.
- **Social influence:** Why people obey authority or conform with group norms when this may be inhumane or callous activity.

In the second year, students learn about the **issues and debates** in psychology, **biopsychology**, and will be looking into three further specialist areas of psychology as option topics, such as **schizophrenia**, **forensic psychology**, and **relationships**.

What could I do at the end of my course?

Psychology can be applied to a very wide range of professions. It is about understanding people; many psychology graduates go into teaching, social work or nursing in terms of the 'people centered' nature of the course. However, many more turn to management, marketing, advertising and journalism. Further applications for psychology include mental health treatment, performance enhancement, self-help, ergonomics and many other areas affecting health and daily life.

