

Curriculum Map for Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. It is a broad and varied science, covering aspects of biology, philosophy, and mathematics, and as such requires a wide range of transferrable skills. Psychology is an intellectually challenging, diverse, and ultimately, extremely useful subject, which we hope students will reflect on and apply within their lives, long after their examinations are over.

As psychologists, we understand how the mind works, and how we learn, and we aim to make use of this knowledge in the way that we teach Psychology. There is therefore an emphasis on active learning – students are given opportunities to conduct small-scale pieces of research, to think for themselves, to apply what they are learning about to their own lives, and also to new topics. We make use of class discussions, debates, and presentations to develop students' confidence in themselves.

Psychology is taught from Year 10 through to Year 13, using the exam board AQA for both GCSE and A Level; further information can be found on the AQA website (www.aqa.org.uk). Students are formally assessed on a termly basis, and at the end of each topic, with mock examinations for Year 11 and 13 in the January preceding their external examinations.

GCSE

The GCSE course covers the following areas:

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research Methods
- Social Influence
- Language, Thought and Communication
- Brain and Neuropsychology
- Psychological Problems

A LEVEL

This course provides students with an extension to the subject content covered at GCSE and the basis for further study in Psychology at University.

The A Level course covers the following areas:

- Memory
- Social Influence
- Attachment
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods
- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Cognition and Development
- Stress
- Forensic Psychology

The study of Psychology throughout the GCSE and A Level courses encourages students to develop as learners in the following ways:

- Engage in the process of psychological enquiry to develop as effective and independent students, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- Develop an awareness of why Psychology matters, acquire knowledge and understanding of how Psychology works, and its essential role in society
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between Psychology and social, cultural, scientific and contemporary issues and its impact on everyday life
- Develop an understanding of ethical issues in Psychology
- Develop an understanding of the contribution of Psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity
- Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods

In order to succeed in Psychology, students must have the following qualities:

- Have good analytical and mathematical skills in order to understand and explain the variety of data analysis from research
- Be able to work independently to prepare for lessons and complete independent learning tasks
- Be prepared to complete reading around the content of lessons on a regular basis
- Be able to develop extended answers to exam questions using coherent language to portray their point of view

Psychology provides students with a number of employment opportunities when they leave school or after studying Psychology further at University. These include the following to name a few:

- Child Care Worker
- Child Psychologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Cognitive Psychologist
- Counselling
- Criminal Investigator
- Educational Psychologist
- Forensic Psychologist
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Military Psychologist
- Neurologist
- Police Officer
- Psychiatrist
- Teacher
- Social Worker
- Sports Psychologist
- University Lecturer