



Psychology

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychologists develop theories or explanations about why people behave the way they do and test these theories using a range of investigative techniques. Studying Psychology will allow you to try to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us and use this understanding to help us tackle personal and social problems. Psychology at A-level will appeal to you if you have an interest in helping others; in developing your analytical and investigative skills and if you enjoy finding answers to how and why we are the way we are.

What skills will I gain from studying Psychology?

The study of Psychology develops a wide variety of valuable skills such as scientific enquiry and the evaluation of research studies and theories which will complement a wide range of other subjects. You will have opportunities for your own research where you can practise the process of conducting psychological research collecting and working with data while following scientific protocol.

Having studied Psychology what opportunities will be open to me?

Studying Psychology creates a range of higher education opportunities because you develop skills which are useful to both humanities and science-based subjects. People with skills in psychology are sought after in business, management, teaching, research, social work and careers in medicine and healthcare.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature and a 5 in Maths

Exam Board – Cambridge OCR

Specification code/no. - H569

Topics covered:

Research methods in Psychology (2-hour exam at the end of year 13)

You will learn how to plan, conduct, analyse and report psychological research across a range of experimental and non-experimental methodologies and techniques.

Core studies (2-hour exam at the end of year 13)

You will gain an introduction to some of the central areas of investigation in Psychology- Social, Developmental, Biological, Cognitive and Individual Differences. Each area is organised into key themes and each key theme is represented by classic and contemporary core studies. There are 15 in total.

Applied Psychology (2-hour exam at the end of year 13)

This unit allows you to apply all the concepts, theories and analysis to real life. It is broken down into three sections:



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1. **Issues in Mental health:** This will include looking at the history of mental illness, how we define mental illness and different models used to explain and treat different mental illness conditions.
2. **Criminal Psychology:** This explores why people turn to crime, how police build a case and gather criminal evidence, how juries can be persuaded by evidence in the courtroom and the different ways offenders can be managed.
3. **Sport and Exercise Psychology:** This will cover topics such as the psychological benefits of exercise and how elite athletes should control their anxiety. As well as the different ways athletes motivate themselves to train and the impact of an audience on sporting performance.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Head of Psychology:

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