

The Psychology Department

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. It is a demanding subject that explores the fundamental questions of why we, as a species, think, feel and behave as we do. The increasing fascination that society has with Psychology is reflected in its popularity at AS and A level.

The AS specification has 2 units:

Unit 1: Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods

- + Cognitive psychology, including memory and eyewitness testimony
- + Developmental psychology, forming attachments, deprivation, and day care
- + Research methods, in the context of the topic areas

Unit 2: Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences

- + Biological psychology, including stress, coping with stress and managing stress
- + Social psychology, including conformity, obedience and disobedient behaviour
- + Individual differences, different approaches to abnormality, causes and therapies

This is assessed by two 1 hour 30 minutes written papers, each 50% of AS Level

The A2 specification has 2 units:

Unit 3: Topics in Psychology - Biological Rhythms and Sleep, Relationships and Aggression

- + Biological rhythms, their disruption - insomnia, sleep walking and narcolepsy
- + Romantic relationships, the effects of early experience on adult relationships
- + Aggression, incl. evolutionary explanations, infidelity, jealousy and lynch mobs

Unit 4: Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

- + Understanding one of the following disorders: Schizophrenia, Depression or Anxiety Disorders (either Phobic Disorders or Obsessive Compulsive Disorder)
- + Understanding and critical thinking in relation to one of the following contemporary applications of psychology: media psychology, the psychology of addictive behaviour or anomalous psychology.
- + Understanding and skills of research design, data analysis, data interpretation and reporting, and the nature of science and scientific method.

This is assessed by two 1 hour 30 minute written papers, each 50% of A2 Level

Career Opportunities

Further study enables students to become qualified practitioners in the fields of clinical, forensic and educational psychology. The study of Psychology is also highly valued by employers in social work, nursing, sales, advertising, public relations, counselling, media and general management to name but a few. At A level you will be asked to rigorously analyse, evaluate and research; these are all transferable skills that are in great demand in the workplace.