

GCSE Psychology



Why choose GCSE Psychology? We are often baffled by the behaviour of others. Why politicians lie, why people betray friendships or why some people experience acute anxiety or depression while others are seemingly immune from the ravages of mental health issues. All of these and more are the domain of psychology. Studying GCSE Psychology is an excellent way to give yourself a foundational knowledge of how the human mind works, understand social behaviour and human development. Psychology is one of the most interesting and dynamic fields in the world currently, in part due to the growing awareness of mental health issues. It is a scientific subject and requires logical thought.

What will I study?

Studying GCSE Psychology, you will get to grips with the core principles and theories that underpin this social science. Aside from an introduction to Psychology you will also study:

Memory - This includes the process and structure memory. You will explore the different kinds of memory – such as episodic, semantic and procedural and how they are formed.

Perception - Perception refers to the way we organise and interpret sensory information.

Development - Developmental psychology examines how and why human beings change over the course of their life.

Research Methods - This module teaches you how to carry out scientific research including how to form a testable hypothesis, the types of variables and sampling methods. You will also understand planning research, ethical considerations and the importance of data.

Social Influence - Social influence explores the effect of conformity and majority influence on an individual depending on a variety of factors. Including anonymity, peer group, personality and others. You will also study the concepts of obedience and prosocial behaviour that influences the individual in order to alter behaviour.

Language, Thought and Communication - This module examines the relationship between language and thought and how this can alter your view on the world. You will study the differences between human and animal communication as well as the significance of non-verbal communication in human interactions.

Brain and Neuropsychology - You will study the structure and function of the nervous system. You will also study the structure of neurons and the brain itself and their respective roles to play in our conscious and unconscious lives.

Psychological Problems - Psychological problems is an introduction to mental health issues, the significance of these challenges and the impact they can have on society. You will also look at clinical depression, therapies, the characteristics of addiction and theories underpinning that.

Who would this course suit?

Psychology is a fascinating area of study. If you have an interest in understanding human behaviour and mental processes and how we think act and feel, then this is the subject for you!

Psychology can not only help you understand people around you better, but it can also help you understand yourself better AND help you understand how to learn more effectively in other subject areas!!

What skills will I develop through learning Psychology?

GCSE Psychology will introduce you to the fundamental concepts of the subject, developing your critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes, procedures and theories and develop their skills of applying their psychological knowledge and understanding in a range of context. Students will develop their skills of analysis and evaluation in relation to psychological ideas, information, processes and procedures allowing them to make judgements, draw conclusions and produce developments or refinements of psychological procedures based on their reasoning and synthesis of skills.

How will my work be assessed?

100% Externally Assessed - No Coursework or Controlled Assessment

Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour: • Memory • Perception • Development • Research methods

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks. 50% of GCSE Questions

Sections A-D: Each containing multiple choice questions, short answer and extended writing (25 marks per section)

Paper 2: Social context and behavior: • Social influence • Language, thought and communication • Brain and neuropsychology • Psychological problems

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks. 50% of GCSE Questions

Sections A-D: Each containing multiple choice questions, short answer and extended writing (25 marks per section)

How can I use this course after Year 11 in the future? It will help you to understand human behaviour and what compels people to make the decisions they do. You can then build on this knowledge with further study at A'level and beyond which can lead towards a number of exciting career opportunities including:

Clinical Psychologist- Counselling Psychologist -Educational Psychologist- Forensic Psychologist- Teacher

The skills that you will acquire by studying Psychology will assist you in a range of sectors, including mental health, social work, education, business and even sport and fitness. A psychology qualification is increasingly valued by employer, who value the analytical and reasoning skills it gives you.

If I want to know more I should ask...

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