

Psychology

Exam Board: WJEC

This course provides a comprehensive appreciation of the nature of Psychology and psychological enquiry by exploring the historical and current psychological approaches and classic and contemporary research. In addition, there are opportunities to explore psychological controversies and debates. As research methods is an essential component of Psychology, this course introduces the various methods used by psychologists and provides the opportunity for psychological investigations to take place, taking into consideration ethical issues and implications of psychological endeavours. This course provides both breadth and depth to the study of Psychology that is easily accessible and stimulating.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- A minimum of 6 A* to C grades at GCSE with a grade **B** in Mathematics and a **C** in English.
- If you have any queries, please contact Miss M Murphy (Head of Department).

AS course

Unit 1: Past to Present (A Level 20%)

- The first unit sets a solid foundation in some of the basic core elements of Psychology through the study of classic research. The aim in this unit is to highlight the developing and evolving nature of Psychology, thus early ideas are explored in context with consideration of the advances made in more recent years. The five main approaches to explaining human behaviour are explored (biological, psychodynamic, behaviourist, cognitive and positive).

Unit 2: Investigating Behaviour (A Level 20%)

- In the second unit, psychological research, from the initial planning stages through to the final stage of analysis and evaluation is explored. Methodologies used by psychologists are introduced to gain an appreciation of the impact of choices made on the outcomes of the work and consequently the possible applications. In addition, the limitations of scientific research are examined, especially when dealing with the complexities of humans as test material. To ensure true appreciation of the principles of psychological

research, individual investigations will take place to provide first-hand experience of research methods.

A2 course

Unit 3: Implications in the real world (A Level 40%)

- In this unit, knowledge from the basic core elements is revisited and application to human/animal behaviours, encouraging explanations and conclusions about the possible causes of these behaviours. Furthermore, in this unit there is an emphasis on understanding how Psychology has the potential to impact on society as a whole by developing methods of modifying behaviour. In addition, five controversies that continue to pose challenges for Psychology are explored.

Unit 4: Applied Research Methods (A Level 20%)

- In this unit, knowledge and understanding of the methodologies used in Psychology and the evaluation of these is explored. This unit focuses on practical work to gain first-hand experience of carrying out investigative work. In addition, novel scenarios are used to help develop these necessary skills.

An A Level in Psychology will be useful for studying a number of university degree courses. These include Educational Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology and Child Psychology.

Career Opportunities

Students wishing to pursue a career in Business, Education, Health Service, Police, Research, Counselling, Social Services, Childcare and Criminology may find Psychology of particular relevance.