

Psychology

Head of Department:
Mr B Hawkins

Psychology can be defined as, '...the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour'. The subject involves studying both human & non-human behaviour in an attempt to understand how we think, act, react & interact. It is concerned with all aspects of behaviour & the thoughts, feelings & motivations behind such behaviour. In a sense, you are already a psychologist: we all are. We are all interested in what makes people tick and how they think, and how this understanding can help us solve major problems in society.

This course is therefore intended for anyone curious about themselves & others around them. By studying psychology you will have a better understanding of the mental processes that govern our behaviour. The course could lead onto AS & A2 Psychology, which are recognised for university entrance along with other A levels.

GCSE Psychology

Awarding Body: AQA
Possible Grades: 9-1

Course Outline

Students will follow a structured programme of work based that allows them to design & conduct informal classroom research using a variety of different methods. They will be given the opportunity to analyse data collected in investigations & draw conclusions based on their findings.

Paper 1 – Cognition and behaviour

This involves studying the following topics: Memory, Perception, Development, Research methods

Paper 2 – Social context and behaviour

This involves studying the following topics: Social influence, Language, thought and communication, Brain and neuropsychology, Psychological problems



Assessment

Written Examination 100%

Two 1 hour 30 minute external examinations take place in the summer of Year 11, both contributing 50% to the GCSE.

Students are assessed on a regular basis throughout the course. Homework is directly linked to classwork in order to consolidate that what has been learnt in the lesson. This may take a variety of forms, including past-paper questions, note-taking & preparatory work for the next lesson.

Specification link:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182>

Recommended textbook: AQA Psychology GCSE Second Edition (Oxford University Press) - Mike Stanley et al