



Psychology KS5

AQA A level Psychology offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. A level psychology improves students' literacy, numeracy and scientific enquiry skills. Studying Psychology encourages students to be more empathic and understanding of others, by challenging judgmental and prejudiced attitudes. In particular studying mental illness gives students an insight into disorders such as Depression, OCD and Schizophrenia.

We imbue the Catholic Ethos by supporting the development of empathy and tolerance. We encourage students to apply their knowledge outside the classroom by focusing on character enhancing experiences.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Yr12	<p>Introduction to the course Assessment objectives, introduction to research methods. Understanding why psychology is considered a science.</p> <p>Social influence Understand and explain key studies and theories of obedience and conformity. Evaluate the theories and studies of obedience and conformity. Apply knowledge to minority influence and social change</p> <p>Memory Understand and explain the key features of memory. Understand and explain memory models Evaluate features and models of memory. Analyse the impact of memory research on society</p>	<p>Approaches Learning, cognitive, biological, psychodynamic and humanistic approaches. Basic understanding of human development from various perspectives. Ability to think abstractly, from other points of view and apply this to everyday situations/human behaviour. Compare and contrast the theories based on issues and debates</p> <p>Attachment Understanding of why humans need attachments and the evolutionary benefits of them. Reflecting upon own attachments. Understanding future impacts of earlier attachments. Analysing impacts of disruption in early attachments.</p> <p>Research methods Understand the different methods used in psychology and practical skills. Evaluate the different methods used and apply to theories previously covered.</p>	<p>Psychopathology Understand and explain symptoms of depression/OCD and phobias. Apply theories from approaches to explain mental disorders and treatments. Critically evaluate explanations and treatments.</p> <p>Biopsychology Understand and explain key physiological processes within the body. Understand and explain key research into the brain and biological rhythms Evaluate the research into the brain and physiology.</p>
	A01: Outline key concepts with precision, using psychological language.	Assessment – full paper 1	Mock examinations – papers 1 and 2



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	<p>Introduction to the PEEL structure writing frame for descriptive elements of extended writing questions. This HT will focus on modelling the structure and students describing and explaining. Students will also A03: Analyse model responses to identify best practice.</p> <p>A01: Describe psychological processes, theories or models with multiple steps.</p> <p>A02: Apply knowledge, with modelled support, to exam questions to explain phenomena. A focus on deconstructing the essay question this HT and understanding the demands of the question.</p> <p>A03: Analyse similarities and differences between theories when explaining memory or social behaviour with modelled support.</p>		
Yr13	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
	<p>Issues and debates Understand contrasting standpoints in the realm of psychology. Discuss the similarities and contrasts of the debates. Evaluate the standpoints</p> <p>Option 1 topics Students will choose between relationships, gender, cognition and development</p>	<p>Option 2 topics Students will pick between schizophrenia, eating behaviour and stress.</p> <p>Option 3 topics Students will pick between aggression and addiction.</p>	Revision and final exams
	Mock examinations half of paper 3	Mock examinations – students will sit all three papers	Summer Examinations