

PSYCHOLOGY

Subject Leader:
Mr. R. Jay

Subject Teacher:
Mrs. G. Montgomery

Exam Board:
AQA
(Specification A)

What are the course requirements?

It is not a requirement that you should have studied Psychology at GCSE in order to take the AS level or A level in the subject. It is important that you have effective communication and numeracy skills. You will explore ideas, research and explanations of human behaviour and experience that will be new to you so an open mind and an ability to use evidence to illustrate and support arguments is a requirement.

Using Psychology after A-levels

Most A level Psychology students progress to university where they may study for a Psychology degree or a degree where there is a Psychology component or use Psychology to access a different degree course. In other words, Psychology is an A level like any other and enables students to gain entry to any university provided that they have the necessary grades. Psychology has been accepted by universities for some time as it is a subject that involves skills with language, skills with numbers and IT, and skills with people. This is a combination that appeals to higher education tutors and to employers. Some students decide to take vocational qualifications including health or social care courses, or courses in management, marketing or retailing.

AS level Psychology (Syllabus number: 1181)

Course Outline

Unit 1

Memory	Models of short term memory, Eyewitness testimony and strategies for memory improvement.
Attachment	Types of attachment in development, and disruption in attachment. The effects of day care on social development.
Research Methods	Qualitative and quantitative research methods. Research design and data analysis and presentation.

Unit 2

Stress	Stress as a bodily response, Stress in everyday life and psychological and physiological methods of stress management.
Social Influence	Types of conformity and obedience. Social influence in everyday life including ethical issues.
Abnormality	Defining and explaining psychological abnormality from biological and psychological approaches. Treating abnormality.

A2 Psychology Course Outline (2181)

Unit 3	Biological Rhythms, Sleep and Dreaming, Relationships, Aggression and Gender.
Unit 4	Psychopathology, Psychology in action and Research Methods.

Unit 3

Social Influence	Conformity and minority influence Obedience to authority Critical Issue: Ethical Issues in Psychological Research
Research Methods	Quantitative and qualitative research methods. Research design and implementation Data analysis

A2 Psychology

Course Outline

Unit 4	Social, Biological and Developmental Psychology. Includes topics such as relationships, sleep and dreaming, gender development
Unit 5	Individual Difference and Issues in Psychology. Includes topics such as psychopathology and debates in Psychology (synoptic unit).
Unit 6	Coursework: a report of one psychological investigation
