



A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

TOGETHER WE SUCCEED
ACHIEVEMENT ASPIRATION HIGH EXPECTATIONS COMMUNITY

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

EXAM BOARD: AQA SYLLABUS A

Aims of the Course:

A Level Psychology is designed to stimulate the students' curiosity about human behaviour. The aim of the course is to introduce the students to the different theories and approaches that allow Psychologists to take a scientific approach to measure human behaviour. Common themes run through the course; this includes the Nurture/Nature debate. This encourages the student to gain knowledge and understanding of particular behaviours and to realise the cause-and-effect relationship of either the learnt behaviour or inherited behaviour. Psychology A level should encourage candidates to develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers in the subject.

Programme of Study

Assessment is by examination at the end of the two years.

Unit 1 (June) – 33% of the overall A level. Topics include **Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, and Clinical Psychology**. Duration of the exam: 2 hours. Questions include short answers, stimulus material, and one or more 16-mark questions requiring extended writing.

Unit 2 (June) – 33% of the overall A level. Topics include **Approaches in psychology, Biopsychology and Research methods**. Duration of the exam: 2 hours. Questions include short answers, stimulus material, and one or more 16-mark questions requiring extended writing.

Unit 3 (June) – 33% of the overall A level. Topics include **Issues and Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia, and Aggression**. Questions include short answers, stimulus material, and one or more 16-mark questions requiring extended writing.

Approaches to Learning

You will develop your independent learning skills through reading and research. You will be involved in presentations and psychological experiments. During lessons you will be expected to take part in class and group discussions, to offer analysis of research studies and evaluate a range of theories.



The course is for you if you are looking for fascinating insights into the human mind and what makes people tick. Psychology courses are increasingly popular both because of their intrinsic appeal and their value as a step on the way to careers in psychology, careers in the health professions and any other employment sector that relies on people skills and communication.

This course will prepare you for university studies and a career in psychology, plus a wide variety of careers that involve personal interaction or communication, such as marketing, health care and personnel management. If you want to enter or progress in employment, you'll find your A Level Psychology will demonstrate to employers that you have the ability to commit to learning, and have acquired good reasoning and analytical skills and an understanding of people - essential in practically every walk of life.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five grade 9-5 GCSE passes including English and Maths. Grade 9-5 in Psychology if studied.



STEP-UP INDEPENDENT STUDY TASKS

These tasks are designed to develop a foundation knowledge of some aspects of psychology that would be required within the A level course. You should develop an understanding of:

- Application (A02): Using Psychology in the real world by reviewing a case study.
- Research methods (A03): Hypothesis testing.

These tasks will start to develop your understanding of the scientific requirements of Psychology and understand Psychology in action.

Task 1 - Psychology as a science

What is a hypothesis in psychology? Understanding what a hypothesis is will enable you to gain an awareness of the scientific structure that is applied to a subject matter. Using the internet or any other resources you have; you are to explain what a hypothesis is and devise your own using examples.

You will need to access the internet and research a general understanding of 'hypotheses'.

Produce a PPT so we can go over it in class during your induction week. You should produce approximately 5 slides. You are to transport your PPT on a USB stick or send it to :

b.read@derbymoor.derby.sch.uk

Helpful resources:

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/what-is-a-hypotheses.html>

Task 2 - Psychology in action

To research a case study to see psychology in action. Clive Wearing is an individual who suffered brain damage. This has impaired his memory and therefore his behaviour. In psychology we are interested in explaining human behaviour. You are to research and produce a PowerPoint of approximately 5 slides stating who Clive Wearing is and how his brain damage has affected him.

You can gain all the information you need for this task from an internet search (see link below).

Produce a PPT so we can go over it in class during your induction week. You should produce approximately 5 slides. You are to transport your PPT on a USB stick or send it to :

b.read@derbymoort.derby.sch.uk

Helpful resources: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T80wIGZSYoc>

TO DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF>

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGqdLLY79_Q

COMPLETED TASK

Student Name			
Subject Teacher		Date:	
Form Tutor:		Date:	