



QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON

Psychology A Level

Overview

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. During the course, you will learn how psychologists outline theories to explain behaviour and you will evaluate these theories with scientific research. Throughout the course you will explore a range of topics including; psychological disorders, memory and aggression.

Why Study?

The study of Psychology at A Level will enable you to gain an understanding of psychological theories, research, case studies and methods used to collect data. You will explore topics which reflect current contemporary issues as well as earlier case studies. You will participate in and conduct psychological investigations, collect data, analyse your own or second hand data and evaluate your findings.

There will also be the opportunity to develop an awareness of the ethical issues in Psychology – particularly in the field of research, and to relate theories to practise and explore self-discovery.

Course Overview

Psychology is a broad subject, in A Level psychology we study a number of different topics and discuss a range of theories.

Year 1:

Memory- What is the capacity of our short term memory, how reliable are eyewitnesses in courts?
Social Psychology- How do other people influence our behaviour for example, who are we more likely to obey?

Attachment- How does our upbringing influence our behaviour?

Psychopathology- What are the causes of psychological disorders and how can we treat them, including; depression, phobias and OCD.

Approaches- What causes human behaviour such as; is it learnt, genetic or our upbringing?

Research Methods- This involves studying human behaviour through the use of questionnaires, experiments and observations.

Year 2

Schizophrenia- How is schizophrenia diagnosed, what causes schizophrenia and how effective are the treatments?

Biopsychology- What areas of the brain are linked to memory, what areas are linked to aggression, what are neurons?

Aggression- Is aggression learnt through playing video games or is it genetic?

Gender- Is gender influenced by psychological and social factors?

Issues and debates- There are a number of debates in psychology including; nature V nurture debate, determinism V free will. These debates will be explored with psychological research.

The course is assessed with three exams at the end of year 13, each exam is two hours.



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Progression

The range of possible careers that include psychology are endless, here are some examples: Doctor, Nursing, Teaching, Solicitor, Business Management, Sports Coaching and Marketing.

Studying psychology is one of the first steps to becoming a psychologist for example:
Educational Psychologist, Forensic Psychologist, Clinical Psychologist and Sport Psychologist.

Studying psychology is also beneficial if you are interested in working in mental health for example:
A cognitive behavioural therapist or mental health nursing.



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