

Psychology A level



What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. It looks at why people behave and think the way they do, why they make specific decisions, why they respond in certain ways. Psychology is concerned with gathering information to help develop general laws of behaviour to explain problems with addiction and schizophrenia to aggression and blind obedience.

Why study this course?

We study the Edexcel 2015 specification. Psychology is a popular and successful subject. We aim to encourage enquiring and independent thinking students using varied teaching methods. Psychology has achieved 100% pass rate at A level for many years and the majority of our students choose to continue studying Psychology to degree level. The psychology team is experienced and dedicated. The department is led by a senior examiner who updates the team on mark scheme decisions, the formulation of questions and emphasis on skills at every examination session. Assessment throughout the course is always in line with national standards.

What are the entry requirements?

Students should have a grade 6 or above in both maths and science. There is a requirement of a minimum of level 2 (5-9) maths in all three papers and advanced level science.

Paper 1 - Foundations of Psychology, is externally assessed – 2 hours, 35% of the A level and includes;

Topic 1: Social psychology – Obedience and Prejudice – reasons why we obey or have prejudiced attitudes. How we can avoid blind obedience and how we can reduce prejudice.

Topic 2: Cognitive psychology – Memory – how it works, what happens when it fails and whether we can rely on it in a court of law.

Topic 3: Biological psychology – Aggression – the impact of brain functioning and neurotransmitters

Topic 4: Learning theories – The development and treatment of Phobias

Paper 2 – Applications of Psychology, is externally assessed – 2 hours, 35% of the A level and includes;

Topic 5: Clinical psychology – The causes and treatments of schizophrenia and depression.

Topic 6: Criminological psychology – Causes of criminality and treatments available to help offenders stay away from crime.

Paper 3 – Psychological Skills, is externally assessed – 2 hour, 30% of the A level and includes a review of methodology (how we collect information about people), studies (examples of current research) and issues and debates covered throughout the course.

Any questions about the course please call into T26 and speak to Mrs Brown. Alternatively ring on the usual school number or email lab@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk.