



A LEVEL Psychology AQA

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW OR BE ABLE TO DO BEFORE TAKING THIS COURSE?

Students who take Psychology need a combination of curiosity and scepticism and need to enjoy research. Psychology students often also study Sociology, Law, Biology, English or Sports Studies. They are expected to have achieved a minimum of one grade 6 in GCSE Science and grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Maths to be considered for this course.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Psychology is the science of human behaviour and experience. It is a science because it aims to objectively study the human mind and behaviour through conducting research. Some of the questions that we aim to answer are: Why is it that some people suffer from stress and mental illness? How do we remember things? It also has real world applications to issues in everyday life, ranging from things like artificial intelligence to social change.

The aims of the Psychology programme at A Level are to:

- investigate psychological theories, research terminology, concepts, studies and methods
- develop skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation
- develop an understanding of different areas of psychology including the core areas of Cognitive, Social, development, Biological and Individual Differences and Research Methods
- design and report psychological investigations, analyse and interpret data
- develop an understanding of ethical issues in Psychology, including the ethical implications of psychological research
- Investigations, research, discussions, presentations, essays
- Explore topics and support learning through several trips such as visiting UCL for research purposes, revision conferences, and other trips to increase learning and knowledge of Psychology.

Year 12 – This is the first year of the course. It covers some core areas of psychology and research methods.

Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology including: Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Developmental Psychology and Psychopathology.

Paper 2 - Psychology in Context include: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods.

Year 13 – This is the second year of the course.

Paper 3 - This goes into greater depth, and considers topics such as Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology

Paper 2 - Psychology in Context

Paper 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology

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