

# Social Science: Psychology A Level

## Overview of the course

Psychology is the scientific study of human mind and behaviour: how we think, feel, act and interact individually and in groups. This course will enable pupils to consider and offer explanations of behaviour in any given context.

At AS Level, the focus is on learning the five main approaches – Social, Developmental, Cognitive, Physiological and Individual Differences. These are shaped by 15 Core Studies. Pupils also learn how to conduct research to gather and analyse data.

At A2 Level, pupils will have the opportunity to study Health & Clinical Psychology (topics include: Healthy Living, Stress and Dysfunctional Behaviour) and Forensic Psychology (topics include, Turning to Crime, making a case, Reaching a verdict and after a guilty verdict).

## Literacy

Pupils have the opportunity to develop their extended writing skills through exam preparation and extended writing. The use of key terms and application of these is crucial in Psychology.

## Numeracy

At both AS and A Level, pupils have the opportunity to take part in psychological research which are followed up with an analysis and interpretation of findings.

Pupils will study and conduct four investigations: experiments, self-report, observation, correlations. At A2 they study descriptive statistics and different statistical tests such as Wilcoxon, and Mann Whitney.

## ICT

Pupils have the opportunity to develop their research skills to develop presentations and various revision resources using various ICT resources using KeyNote and PowerPoint. They have the opportunity to do individual and group research tasks.

## What skills will students develop?

Studying Psychology at A Level allows pupils to develop their communication skills along with the ability to develop empathy and think analytically. It also allows pupils to monitor their own emotional expressions and develop a sense of self.

At A Level, pupils will learn to develop their extended writing skills when answering ten and fifteen mark essay questions. At A2 pupils develop their problem solving skills, and are required to think analytically and empathetically.

## Meeting the needs of individual students

Pupils are seated according to their social and academic needs to promote positive learning and respect diversity. Student's exercise books and assessments are regularly marked and feedback is provided so pupils are aware of their targets and how they can improve. One to one support is provided during lessons and after school by Academic Tutors with specialist knowledge.

## Resources to support learning

Pupils are provided with different revision materials including resource packs and booklets in both AS and A2 Psychology. Currently, these include a Core Studies pack and Psychological Investigations pack at AS and the same for the A2 units; Forensic, Health and Clinical, research Methods and Perspectives.

Specification: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-psychology-h168-h568/>

## Assessment

In class, pupils will be assessed via fortnightly assessments. These will involve mock exam questions and past papers to prepare students for their exams.

This is a 100% examination course. At AS Level, pupils will be assessed by a one hour (Psychological Investigations; 30%) and a two hour Core Studies paper which is worth 70% of the AS grade. At A2 Level, pupils are assessed by an Options paper (Forensic and Clinical Psychology) and a Synoptic Paper (50% of the A2 course).

## SMSC

Pupils develop their social skills through studies on altruism and helping others. Their moral through studies in the Forensic unit and obedience to authority. Spiritual and Cultural by considering how others behave and empathising.

## Extracurricular activities

Students are given the opportunity to attend special Master Classes on the different areas of Health and Clinical Psychology, by lecturers at Queen Mary University.

## Additional support for learning

To support learning, several Year 12 and Year 13 Extension Classes are run throughout the year, which cover revision, mock exams and timed assessments. Classes are also run throughout the school holidays.

## Independent study & VLE

Throughout the course, pupils are encouraged to develop their study skills by using the Library, SILC and VLE for independent study.