



Subject: PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

Levels available: AS (1 year) and A2 (additional 2nd Year)

Subject Leader: Mr R Austin

Course Information:

* What do I need to know or be able to do before choosing this subject?

You will need to have gained 5 grades A*-C GCSE passes and have a real interest in studying how and why people behave as they do. A great deal of the work involves individual research using textbooks and ICT technology. You do need to have the ability and willingness to read around the subject and write essays; all of the assessment is through written work.

* What does the course consist of and how will I be assessed?

AS (Advanced Subsidiary) Specification

This is the first half of the full A level course. If you and your teacher agree that it's best for you, you can take the AS level on its own during or at the end of Year 12. The final grade will count towards entry to Further/Higher Education.

The AS level is made up of three units:

Unit 1: Cognitive and Developmental Psychology **33.3% AS or 16.6% A level**

This will include the study of memory and eye witness testimony, especially dealing with the way this is used in a court of law. In addition we will look at the way in which children form attachments with parents and other people.

Unit 2: Physiological and Individual Differences **33.3% AS or 16.6% A level**

An important part of this section is a study of stress, including the factors that cause stress and what steps we can take to reduce it. In addition we will look at abnormality and will especially study eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia, considering what causes them and how they can be treated.

Unit 3: Social Psychology and Research Methods **33.3% AS or 16.6% A level**

In this section, you will be studying the way in which other people can affect your behaviour. We will look at conformity and also consider why people do and do not obey instructions. In addition we will study how research is carried out.

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Course Information:

ADVANCED LEVEL (AS AND A2) Specification

The full Advanced level qualification is made up of the 3 AS Units plus 3 more Units studies at A2 level. If you decide to continue with the second half of the course in Year 13, you will study the following additional Units.

Unit 4: Options **15% of A level**

There is a range of options in this section. We will probably study the following: Relations; Pro and anti-social behaviour; Sleep and dreams; Personality and gender.

Unit 5: Synoptic Paper **20% of A level**

This section will look at issues that cut across all areas of Psychology. We will look in more detail at Abnormal behaviour, including such things as schizophrenia and phobias. In addition we will look at issues and debates in Psychology, such as whether you are born intelligent or become intelligent. Finally, you will be asked to explain a situation from a psychological view.

Unit 6: Coursework **15% of A level**

You will design, carry out and write up a piece of psychological research.

*** How could I develop Key Skills by doing this course?**

As well as covering the study of Psychology, the AS/A2 courses will enable you to develop key skills. Your teacher will let you know when a particular piece of work also accounts for Key Skills assessment as well as for Psychology assessment. You will need to keep evidence of this work in a Portfolio for assessment later if you wish to gain a Key Skills qualification. During this course examples of key skills could include:

Communication—eg class discussions and written work.

Application of Number—eg basic statistics work in the research section.

Information and Communication Technology—eg word process your coursework.

Improving own learning and performance—eg when we study memory.

Problem solving—eg when we consider how people think.

Working with others—eg you will investigate some aspects in small groups.

*** What could I go on to do after the course?**

You would be qualified to study this subject at university. It would prepare you for any jobs where you are working with people. You will also learn a great deal about yourself and the people with whom you come into contact on a daily basis.