

SUBJECT: Psychology

QUALIFICATION: AS/ A2 In Psychology

QUALIFICATION LEVEL: Level 3

QUALIFICATION TYPE: Advanced Subsidiary

AWARDING BODY: Edexcel

CATEGORY: Social Sciences

Qualification Accreditation Number (QAN): AS 500/26677, A2 500/2646X

DESCRIPTION

Psychology literally means the study of the mind. Psychologists aim to explain why humans behave in the way they do. It is an exciting course which complements many other subjects from the Arts to Sciences.

For more information on what Psychology is about follow the link below:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/mind/articles/psychology/what_is_psychology.shtml

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course is split into 4 units of work over two years. AS is quite broad and aims to give students an overview of the different approaches to Psychology. A2 is more specialised and looks at how psychological theory has been applied.

AS

1. **Social and Cognitive Psychology** (The Social Approach focuses on why people obey authority and why prejudice exists, the Cognitive Approach focuses upon how memories are formed and why we forget)
2. **Understanding Individuals** (This focuses upon Freudian Theory and the role of the brain and central nervous system upon gender development)

A2

3. **Applications of Psychology** (Criminal Psychology looks at explanations of why people commit crime, the use of eyewitness testimony and the treatment of offenders, Child Psychology is concerned with attachment and the effects of deprivation and privation on child development)
4. **How Psychology Works** (This is a synoptic unit with a focus upon Clinical Psychology where students study explanations for Schizophrenia and Anorexia. In addition students study research methods, ethical issues and debates in Psychology).

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

A grade C in Mathematics

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two examinations at AS and two at A2

- **AS**

- *Unit 1: Social and Cognitive*
 - 40% of AS mark, 20% of A' Level (January)
- *Unit 2: Individual Differences*
 - 60% of AS mark, 30% of A' Level (May)

- **A2**

- *Unit 3: Applications of Psychology – Child and Criminal Psychology*
 - 40% of A2 mark, 20% of A' Level (January)
- *Unit 4: How Psychology Works – Clinical Psychology, Research Methods and Issues and Debates*
 - 60% of A2 mark, 20% of A' Level (June)

- For each topic students are expected to carry out a practical and they should be prepared to answer questions about their practical in the exam
- Each unit is assessed by a mixture of multiple choice (AS), short answer and essay questions
- Click on the following link to be taken to the exam board's website where further assessment material such as sample examination papers are available

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/psych/Pages/default.aspx>

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES?

Psychology has many transferable skills as it combines essay writing with the use of scientific and mathematical methods. Specific career opportunities include counselling, the health profession, education, police service, sports psychology, occupational psychology.

For further information on careers click on the following link to the British Psychological Society website

http://www.bps.org.uk/careers/what-do-psychologists-do/what-do-psychologists-do_home.cfm

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you are interested in speaking to someone about Psychology, contact Miss Kirk at Pensby High School for Girls

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