

# Psychology A level

## **Course outline**

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behaviour in a given context. It is a broad field that encompasses the study of human thought, behaviour, development, personality, emotion, motivation, and more. The study of psychology can help people achieve insights into their own actions as well as a better understanding of others.

We follow OCR Psychology.

## **Component 01: Research methods**

This component develops knowledge and understanding of planning, conducting, analysing and reporting psychological research across a range of experimental and non-experimental methodologies and techniques. Students carry out their own small-scale practical activities. Within this section there is a significant maths component focusing on statistics and analysing mathematical data.

Students need to be familiar with the four main techniques for collecting/analysing data:

- Self-report
- Experiment
- Observation
- Correlation.

## **Component 02: Psychological themes through core studies**

Introduces some of the central areas of investigation in psychology organised in ten key themes, each represented by a classic and a contemporary core study. The core studies reflect the contribution of psychology to an understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity.

## **Component 03: Applied psychology**

Students consider a number of methodological issues and how they relate to a range of topics.

- Issues in mental health.

## **How you will be assessed**

**There are three exams that will be sat at the end of the two years:**

### **Paper 1: 2 hour written exam (30% of A level)**

Research methods; 90 marks

### **Paper 2: 2 hour written exam (35% of A level)**

Psychological themes through core studies; 105 marks

### **Paper 3: 2 hour written exam (35% of A level)**

Applied psychology; 105 marks

**Entry requirements:**

Grade 4 in English and Science, Grade 5 in Maths and a Humanities (History or Geography) subject.

**Where could the course take you:**

Psychology is relevant to all occupations that involve interacting with others. Not only does it help to develop important skills such as critical thinking, application of ideas, analysing, it also encourages students to think about ethical issues and respect for others, all whilst developing knowledge and understanding of key factors that can explain behaviours. As such psychology can benefit a variety of areas including, though not limited to medicine, counselling, psychotherapy, forensic psychology, research work, child psychology, educational psychology and sports psychology.