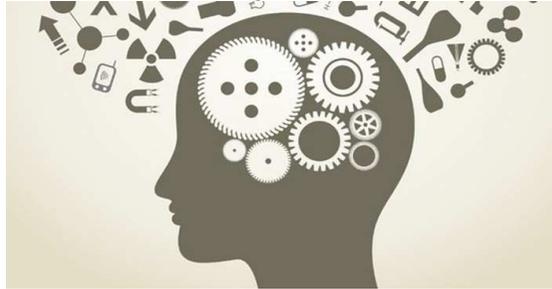


Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. At AS level it involves understanding and analysing theories and experiments that have been created and conducted by a range of psychologists who have different approaches to explaining why humans do the things they do!

AS Psychology



AS Psychology will involve you applying skills you have learnt in Science, Maths and English to write about the theories and analyse the data produced in experiments. It also complements other subjects such as Sociology, History and PE that can help to put human behaviour into a real life context.

What will I be expected to do?

Psychology lessons often involve finding out about a particular theory or experiment and then analysing the theory or applying to a specific scenario.

- ✓ You will be expected to keep an organised and comprehensive file of notes to demonstrate your learning in and out of lesson time. This file should be present in every lesson.
- ✓ You will be expected to contribute to small group and whole class discussions.
- ✓ You will be expected to complete extended written responses.
- ✓ You will be expected to question and challenge ideas in a respectful manner.
- ✓ You will be expected to complete written questions, conduct research, find out new information and spend time reflecting on your learning on a regular basis outside of lesson time.
- ✓ You will be expected to conduct your own independent wider reading and media exploration around the subject to support your learning outside of lesson time.
- ✓ You will be expected to be open minded and enthusiastic about developing your knowledge and understanding and be willing to challenge yourself.

How is my AS grade decided?

The AS course is externally examined through two written papers at the end of the academic year.

- Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes
- Each paper is worth 72 marks
- Each paper will involve short response questions, data analysis and extended writing

TENSILE

Tensile /ten-syl/ adjective **1**
capable of being stretched.

What will I learn about in Psychology?

Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology

Social Influence

What is social influence and what are the different types?
What factors can make people more obedient?
Why do some people resist pressures to be influenced by others?
How does social influence lead to social change?

Memory

How can the process of human memory be explained?
What are the different types of memory and how do they work?
Why and how do we remember some things but forget others?
How accurate are we at recalling events we have witnessed?

Attachment

How and why does attachment occur in animals and humans?
What are the different explanations offered for the attachment process?
How is attachment measured by psychologists?
What happens if someone does not form an attachment in childhood?



Paper 2 Psychology in Context

Approaches in Psychology

How has psychology developed over time?
What is the behaviourist approach and how has it been used in research?
What is the cognitive approach and how has it been used in research?
What is the biological approach and how has it been used in research?

Biopsychology

What makes up the human nervous system?
What are neurons and how do they work?
What is the endocrine system and how does it work?
What is the fight or flight response and how does it work?

Psychopathology

How do psychologists define abnormality?
What are phobias, depression and OCD?
What do behavioural psychologists suggest are explanations and treatments for phobias?
What do cognitive psychologists suggest are the explanations and treatments for depression?
What do biological psychologists suggest are the explanations and treatments for OCD?

Research Methods

What is the scientific process involved in conducting psychological research?
What are the different research methods used by psychologists?
What ethical guidelines govern psychological research?
How do psychologists present, handle, interpret and analyse data?

If you join us in September, you will be given a baseline test. This will enable you and your teachers to begin regular assessments of how you are progressing through the course. In order to support you in your preparation for this test, you are required to complete some independent work. It is expected that you will read around the subject material and make detailed notes before attempting the set tasks.

- Find out about the different types of conformity using the research of Kelman (1958).
- Consider Deutsch and Gerard's two-process theory as an explanation of conformity.
- In Asch's research, apart from complying to avoid the rejection of the majority, what other factors can influence conformity?
- What did Zimbardo's prison experiment reveal about conformity? Is there anything about the research that can be criticised?