

BTEC Applied Psychology



“So what is it?”

Simply put, psychology is the study of people, behaviour and the mind. It has recently been reclassified as a science subject, and this is reflected in the A level curriculum. It is a broad subject, with many different areas and a number of different approaches towards explaining behaviour. Not all psychologists agree with each other! Psychologists observe human behaviour, create theories to explain the behaviour, and then carry out research to test these theories. Psychology is a challenging subject, requiring commitment and hard work. Ultimately though, the hard work is rewarded with a deeper understanding of people and society, and perhaps even yourself!

What will I study?

Unit 1- Psychological Approaches and Applications: You will look at 4 key approaches underpinning Psychology; Cognitive, Behavioural, Biological and Social. You will develop an understanding of how psychological research and concepts can explain gender identity, aggression and consumer behaviour.

Unit 2- Conducting Psychological Research: You will gain an understanding of the research process and the key methods used extensively by researchers to test theories and provide information about the ways in which people think and behave. You learn how to plan a pilot study exploring a current psychological topic.

Unit 3- Health Psychology: You will learn about approaches, theories and studies that explore or explain the reasons why an individual may engage in specific behaviours such as addiction. You will explore how health psychologists can help improve health behaviours using psychological theories of persuasion.

Optional Units: Criminal Forensic Psychology, Applied Sport Psychology, Introduction to Psychopathology, Promoting Children’s Psychological Development (one optional unit is covered)

Possible career options

Studying psychology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including:

- Education
- Sports
- Forensics
- Clinical
- Politics
- Law
- Health
- Advertising and marketing



Assessment

Year 12

Unit 1-Psychological Approaches and Applications– 1.5 hour externally assessed exam (72 marks)

Unit 2- Conducting Psychological Research– internally assessed coursework

Year 13

Health Psychology– 2 hour externally assessed exam (70 marks)

Internally assessed coursework on chosen optional unit: Criminal Forensic Psychology, Applied Sport Psychology, Introduction to Psychopathology, Promoting Children’s Psychological Development (one optional unit is covered)

Entry requirements

You will need to have **4 GCSE’s at grade 4-9 and a grade 4 in English & Science GCSE** to gain entrance to the course. Please talk to staff for more information:

Head of Department:

Miss Makwana

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Teacher of Applied Psychology: Mrs Fay

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