



### “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?

##### **Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology**

**Social Influence:** This looks at group behaviour and conformity and obedience.

**Memory:** This is the study of how our brain processes information from the environment and focuses on short term and long term memory and eye-witness testimony.

**Attachment:** Social and emotional development of children. Deprivation and privation.

**Psychopathology:** Introduction to psychological disorders, including phobias and OCD.

##### **Paper 2: Psychology in Context**

**Approaches in Psychology:** Here we study the 6 main perspectives in order to understand the foundations of Psychology.

**Biopsychology :** A look into biological influences on human behaviour

**Research Methods:** Practical application of how Psychologists carry out their research; we need to know all about the different methodologies

##### **Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology**

**Issues and debates:** This is where we explore and debate the big controversial on-going debates in Psychology.

**Options:** Relationships, Gender, Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour, Forensics and Addiction. (3 of the optional units are covered)

#### **Possible career options**

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

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



#### **Assessment**

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.



#### **Entry requirements**

You will need to have **5 GCSE's at grade 5-9 and a grade 5 in English & Science GCSE** to gain entrance to the course. Please talk to staff for more information:

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