

# PSYCHOLOGY A-LEVEL

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Psychology at A-Level is an introductory course to the scientific study of the mind, it is also concerned with how the brain, nervous and endocrine systems work and uncovering the causes of human behaviour. Psychologists also study animal behaviour in an attempt to better understand human behaviour. The subject addresses questions such as: How can we improve our memory? Is eye-witness testimony reliable? How does social influence affect our behaviour? Does watching violent films on TV affect or playing violent video games raise levels of aggression? Why do people behave the way they do? What determines who you're attracted to? Where do phobias come from? Why do we have particular types of dreams? Why is attachment to primary caregivers so crucial to development? How do people get addicted to gambling, smoking, drugs? How to conduct scientific research and represent results graphically in a scientific report. These are just a few examples of the vast number of interesting issues that psychologists have researched and written about which are covered at A-Level.

## **COURSE CONTENT:**

- **Compulsory content**
  - Social influence
  - Memory
  - Attachment
  - Psychopathology
  - Approaches in Psychology
  - Biopsychology
  - Research methods and inferential statistics
  - Issues and debates in psychology
- **Compulsory content**
  - **Option 1:** Relationships, Gender, Cognition and development
  - **Option 2:** Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour, Stress
  - **Option 3:** Aggression, Forensic psychology, Addiction

## **ASSESSMENT:**

Assessment is by written examinations; there is no coursework. Students have to write essays which describe and critically analyse content, apply research methods in their work and be able to collect and analyse data statistically.

## **FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:**

The choice is endless! Taking Psychology at A-Level is directly applicable for studying a Psychology degree at university. The career areas for psychology graduates who wish to register as a professional psychologist are Clinical, Educational, Occupational/Organisational, Counselling, Research, Health and Forensic Psychology. Psychology is also very useful in other occupations that involve service delivery to people such as Education (Educational Psychologist, Teaching, Counsellor, TA), Healthcare (Clinical Psychology, Nursing, Health Psychology, working for the NHS), Childcare (Childminding, Play Therapy), Youth work and Social work. In addition Psychology is key in people management and a great background to understanding human behaviour in Advertising, Training, Marketing and Sales, Retail Management, Journalism, the Arts, Computer Programming, the Criminal Justice System, the Police Service, Sports Coaching and Recruitment for employment.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**

English and Mathematics GCSE at least at Grade 5 and Grade 6 in GCSE Science.