

# Psychology AS/A2

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA – AS: 5181

A2: 6181

- Most Popular of the Advanced Specifications
- Covers all the Key Areas of Psychological Investigation
- Provides a Sound Basis for Undergraduate Work

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

An average GCSE score of 4.8 or above is required, including Grade C or above in Mathematics and English. A high level of motivation is vital for this demanding course.

## THE COURSE

The course is split into three modules each for the AS and A2 Qualifications. Most of the topics covered at AS are covered in greater depth in the A2 course. There is no coursework in the AS, and only one piece (2000 words maximum) at A2.

The subject asks many interesting questions about the human mind and human behaviour. The topics that we will cover are:

<b>Social Psychology</b>	Why do people behave the way they do in groups? (AS and A2)
<b>Comparative Psychology</b>	In what ways are human beings like animals? (A2)
<b>Physiological-Bio-Psychology</b>	How does the brain work from a biological point of view? (AS and A2)
<b>Individual Differences</b>	What makes each of us unique? (AS and A2)
<b>Cognitive Psychology</b>	How do we understand and remember things? (AS and A2)
<b>Developmental Psychology</b>	What changes take place in the human life-span? (AS and A2)
<b>Perspectives</b>	Different approaches to doing Psychology (A2)
<b>Research Methods</b>	How do Psychologists get their information? (A2)

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GCSE AND A-LEVEL

What makes the subject so interesting is the fact that you have to make up your own mind about the information and theories put before you. The key difference from GCSE is that you have to build a lot of your own ideas into the written work you produce. You also have to learn a lot of information, but those who take an imaginative and questioning approach achieve the best grades.

## ORGANISATION OF WORK

There are 5 written module papers. You will do 3 during Year 12 and two at the end of Year 13. You will do one piece of coursework in Year 13.

## SUPPORTING SUBJECTS

Psychology goes well with other humanities subjects. Also Media Studies and Theology will address Psychological themes.

## POST A LEVEL (INCLUDING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES)

The critical skills developed in this subject will be welcomed in many different degree courses, and successful candidates would have much to offer in Social Work and other caring professions.

<b>What is Psychology?</b>	Psychology is the science of Mind and Behaviour!
<b>Eh?</b>	It's about how we think and why we do what we do..
<b>Go on...!</b>	We study why some people go along with the crowd; how do we change in our lifetime; is it useful to call humans animals; why we "forget" to do homework but not to go out with our friends; how we form and end relationships; we look at the best methods of researching our theories....
<b>It sounds really interesting!</b>	It is, it's the fastest growing subject in the country...
<b>It's the usual six-module pattern I suppose?</b>	Yes, 3 for AS (no coursework) and 3 more for A2, one being a piece of your own research.
<b>Where does it lead?</b>	To a Psychological degree or another career that uses it, ... management, advertising, law, nursing, social work, police force.....
<b>So it's pretty versatile then?</b>	80,000 students a year can't be wrong!
<b>Where do I find out more?</b>	Ask a current student, see Mr Haggerty, Miss Bennett or Mr Brown