

# A Level Psychology



### Entry Criteria:

- You will need to achieve the pathway criteria, please see the prospectus for further information
- You will need to achieve a Grade 5 or above in Mathematics, English Language and Science

### Coursework/Examination Requirements:

AS Assessment Two written papers each worth 50%

A Level Assessment      Three written papers each worth 33.3%

**Awarding Body/Specifications:** AQA

**Advanced Level (A Level):** Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Research in Psychology seeks to understand and explain thought, emotion and behaviour. The course enables you to better understand yourself as you learn more about how development occurs and how factors like society and culture impact on behaviour. You will gain a stronger grasp of research methods which means you will be better equipped to sort out the truth from the fiction surrounding many popular Psychology myths. Psychology can also help you become a better communicator and develop critical thinking skills. **The following units will be covered on this course:**

### AS/Lower Sixth Units

## Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence – Reasons why we obey those in authority and conformity
- Memory – Long and short term memory, why we forget, eye witness testimonies
- Attachment – The influence of early childhood attachments on adult relationships

## Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology – Behavioural, Cognitive and Biological
- Psychopathology – The Causes and Treatment of Mental Disorders such as OCD, Phobias and Depression
- Research Methods – How to conduct Research, Analyse and Interpret Data
- Biopsychology - The central and Peripheral Nervous System, Functions of the Endocrine System, Glands and Hormones

### A Level/Upper Sixth Units

### Psychology in Context (Continued from Lower Sixth)

- Approaches in Psychology – Psychodynamic, Humanistic and Comparison of the approaches
- Biopsychology - Localisation of function of the brain, ways of studying the brain, and biological rhythms
- Research Methods

## Issues and Options in Psychology

- Issues and Debates
- One topic from EITHER Relationships, Gender or Cognitive Development
- One topic from EITHER Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour or Stress
- One topic from EITHER Aggression, Forensic Psychology or Addiction

**Progression:** Studying Psychology will give many options such as progression to Higher Education or for your career plans, especially if you are interested in working with people or in areas that need good problem solving skills including Management and Human Resources, Education, Public Sector Work, Health and Social Care, Marketing, Public Relations and Medicine. Careers specifically related to Psychology include: Child, Education, Forensic and Clinical Psychologists.

**Opportunities:** Strong links with the University of East Anglia have been established and previous visits have included the Freud Museum and The Maudsley Hospital Psychology Unit.