**Psychology**

Through this specification, students develop understanding of the key methodology in psychology and how psychology works in our everyday lives. This course has been designed so that students can study subjects relevant to society today, while developing an understanding of key psychological concepts.  The focus is on the process of psychology and its application in today’s world, making this a contemporary qualification. The units contain key psychological questions with key terms, practical aspects including the research of psychologists and the research students can undertake, and the relevance of issues to the world.

**KS4**

Students are examined at the end of year 11, completing GCSE Psychology 9-1 with the exam board Edexcel Pearson. The students complete two papers, Paper 1 - 1 hr 45 minutes (55%) and Paper 2 - 1 hr 20 minutes (45%). Psychology is assessed in three skill-based strands:A01 Description and Explanation, A02 Application to context or study and AO3 Evaluation.

The topics covered are below

**Year 9**

**Memory** – How do our memories work?

**Psychological problems** – Why do some people get depressed and develop addictions?

**Sleep and dreaming** – Why do we need to sleep and dream?

**Research methods** – how do we design psychological research? This topic underpins everything we study and is constantly taught, recapped and reinforced across KS4.

**Year 10**

**Development** – How do humans develop?

**The brain and neuropsychology** – How do our brains actually work?

**Social influence** – How do others affect the ways we behave?

**Research methods** – how do we design psychological research? This topic underpins everything we study and is constantly taught, recapped, and reinforced across KS4.

**Year 11**

**Criminal Psychology** – Why do people become criminals?

**Research methods** – how do we design psychological research? This topic underpins everything we study and is constantly taught, recapped, and reinforced across KS4.

Revision and rehearsal of all previous topics

Memory is taught first to ensure students have a keen grasp of the importance of attention, rehearsal, and practise in the learning process. They learn the concepts of building and expanding existing knowledge (schema) and using repeated retrieval practice to ensure this knowledge does not decay. Most Psychology home learning tasks are the application of gained knowledge into formulating model answers to GCSE examination questions. Students are expected to rehearse this knowledge until it is committed to memory, this is assessed through a programme of continuous timed mini assessments in the classroom. Students are expected to achieve at target grade or above.

The use of QLAs are used post end of topic assessments to further support independent learning and to inform teacher planning. Assessment points take place throughout the year that are in line with the Academy assessment calendar.

**KS5**

Psychology investigates why we behave in the manner we do, helping us understand the human psyche. It also gives us insight into the motivations behind our actions. As an entry-level psychology course, A-level psychology offers a basic and incredible understanding of the complex subject called psychology. A-level psychology offers a solid understanding of the key psychological concepts and theories, which can help develop knowledge of the critical elements of human behaviour.

AQA A level Psychology is a two-year linear course. After the second year you will be awarded the A level A level Psychology, it is 100% examination with three two hour exams at the end of the 2nd. The AQA curriculum consists of these three components:

**Component 1**: **Introductory topics in Psychology**

o Social Influence

o Memory

o Attachment

o Psychopathology

**Component 2: Psychology in Context**

o Approaches in Psychology

o Biopsychology

o Research Methods

o Issues and Debates in Psychology

**Component 3 Option 1: Candidates will study one option from each of the three categories**

o Relationships

o Gender

o Cognition and Development

**Component 3 Option 2: Candidates will study one option from each of the three categories**

o Schizophrenia

o Eating behaviour

o Stress

**Component 3 Option 3: Candidates will study one option from each of the three categories**

o Aggression

o Forensic Psychology

o Addiction

Coupled with research assignments, the majority of independent study A Level Psychology learning tasks are the application of gained knowledge into formulating model answers to A Level examination questions. Students are expected to rehearse this knowledge until it is committed to memory, this is assessed through a programme of continuous timed mini assessments in the classroom. Students are expected to achieve at target grade or above. The use of QLAs are used post end of topic assessments to further support independent learning and to inform teacher planning. Assessment points take place throughout the year that are in line with the Academy assessment calendar.