

PSYCHOLOGY

WJEC AS/A2 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

As a new subject the following criteria are essential for enrolment onto the course. Grade B or above in Maths or Numeracy. Grade B in English Language or Literature and a C grade in **ANY** Science.

COURSE CONTENT

AS Unit 1: Past to Present

Students will gain a solid grounding in some of the core elements of psychology. They will study five psychological approaches to understand a vast range of phenomena including: the formation of relationships, brain abnormalities in murderers, the unconscious mind, dream analysis, the influence of early childhood experience, the unreliability of eyewitness testimony, free will, and who is happy?

Written Examination : 1 hour 30 minutes

AS Unit 2: Using Psychological Concepts

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Section A: Contemporary debate .Students will explore a number of debates from a psychological perspective; including the ethics of neuroscience, the mother as primary care-giver of an infant and using techniques to control behaviour. One question linked to the given debates.

Section B: Principles of research. Compulsory questions on the theory of psychological research (including the work of social and developmental psychologists).

Section C: Application of research methods to a novel scenario. Students will apply their knowledge and understanding of research methods to novel scenarios, making judgements on psychological research. Compulsory questions requiring a response to a piece of research previously unseen.

A2 Unit 3: Implications in the Real World

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

Section A: The Study of Behaviours. Students will choose to study three behaviours from: Addiction, Autistic Spectrum, Bullying, Criminal, Schizophrenia and Stress. Three structured essays from a choice of six

Section B: Controversies in psychology. Students will explore controversial issues in psychology including: cultural bias, ethics of conducting research on humans, research using non-human animals, the scientific status of psychology and sexism. One question from a choice of two requiring a synoptic exploration of psychological controversies.

A2 Unit 4: Applied Research Methods

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Section A: Personal Investigation. Students will gain first-hand experience of two research methods. They will be required to respond to questions concerning these investigations in their assessment. Compulsory questions based on investigative activities carried out prior to the assessment.

Section B: Application of research methods to novel scenarios. Students will apply their knowledge of research methods to novel scenarios, making judgements on psychological research. Compulsory questions requiring a response to a piece of research.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Postgraduate study enables students to become qualified practitioners in the fields of clinical, forensic and educational psychology. The study of Psychology is also highly valued by employers in social work, nursing, sales, advertising, public relations, counselling, media and general management to name but a few. At A level you will be asked to rigorously analyse, evaluate and research; these are all transferable skills that are in great demand in the workplace.



PROFILE

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. It is a demanding subject that explores the fundamental questions of why we, as a species, think, feel and behave as we do. The increasing fascination that society has with Psychology is reflected in its popularity at AS and A level.

CONTACT

Subject Lead: Mr T Robinson

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

AS Level – Year 12

Unit 1 (AS) Past to Present- 20%

Unit 2 (AS) Psychological Concepts- 20%

A2 Level – Year 13

Unit 3 (A2) - Implications in the real world - 40%

Unit 4 (A2) - Applied Research Methods - 20%

All units are written exams.