



PSYCHOLOGY

QUALIFICATION:

AS and A2 Level

Exam Board: AQA (Spec B)

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFICATION

The specification comprises four units. Two units would lead to an AS and four units, typically studied over two years, would lead to an A2 (a full 'A' Level) award.

Unit 1: Introducing Psychology. In this introductory unit our first topic requires us to consider six different approaches to understanding people. In our second topic will consider the nature/nurture debate in relation to gender differences, and at how we acquire our gender differences. We will also learn about research methods, which will teach us how to conduct scientific research.

Unit 2: Social and Cognitive Psychology, and Individual Differences. In this unit we will learn about how memory works, and at the reasons why we forget. We will also consider how other people can influence the way we behave (social influence), and at what makes us conform, and at what makes us obey, - or disobey,- instructions. We will also learn about autism, its causes, and the therapies used to treat autism.

Unit 3: In this unit we will learn about the social development of children, and at two further topics which are closely related to criminal psychology. These are forensic psychology, and cognition and law. In forensic psychology we look at defining, measuring and explaining criminal behaviour. We also consider sentencing the offender, and the therapies which are currently used to treat the offender. In cognition and law we look at face recognition, police line-up procedures, the accuracy of eye witness testimony and whether or not it is possible to give someone a false memory of something which never happened. This is not an exhaustive list, but it gives an idea of the aspects covered by the course.

Unit 4: Approaches to Understanding People, Debates, and Methods of Research in Psychology.



TEACHING METHODS

Mainly through classroom teaching which will include some classroom demonstrations, powerpoint presentations and video clips.

HOW WILL THE COURSE BE ASSESSED?

Each unit is equally weighted and will be externally examined. The overall grade will be determined by combining these four results.

ADVISED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Each student's grade profile will be considered individually.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Psychology is an exciting subject aimed at understanding human behaviour. Degrees in Psychology can lead to diverse career opportunities in, for example, Educational Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Clinical Psychology and any area where understanding people gives an advantage.

CONTACT NAMES FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION:

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