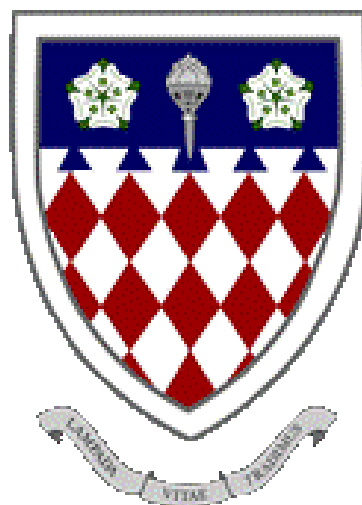


Spalding High School Sixth Form

A Level Psychology



Why Choose A Level Psychology?

The AQA A Level course offers a stimulating, engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by higher education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. Students are encouraged to develop an understanding of the behaviour of the individual; to engage in practical activities to appreciate the methods used to gather evidence and to consider the direct application of psychological knowledge to everyday situations.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding in relation to a number of topics: Social Influence; Memory; Attachments and Psychopathology. During the second year the students will study an additional 3 option topics: Cognition and Development, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

What career paths might I follow with A Level Psychology?

A Level Psychology is suitable for a wide range of different careers. As students develop their understanding of human behaviour throughout the course their learning can be applied to a variety of different occupations, particularly those where you would expect to be working with the public. For example, in the past students have gone on to join the police force, nursing, midwifery, teaching and human resources departments. Some students decide to continue to develop their knowledge further by studying Psychology to degree level and further. Psychology specific careers include, Educational Psychology (working with children and young adults), Clinical Psychology (working with individuals who may be experiencing some form of dysfunctional behaviour) and Forensic Psychology (working within the prison service to rehabilitate prisoners) Counselling Psychology, Sports Psychology and Health Psychology.

What is the content of the course and how is it assessed?

End of year examinations form the method of assessment for A-level psychology.

There are 3 examination papers. Each one is worth 33.3% of the final A-level grade.

For 96 marks you have two hours to complete each paper.

Paper 1: Introductory topic in psychology (Social influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology)

Paper 2: Psychology in context [Approaches in psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods and Issues and Debates in psychology]

Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology (Cognition and Development, Schizophrenia and Forensic psychology)

What do our students say about A Level Psychology...

'Psychology is an interesting and fun way to study a science. I'm not someone that enjoys science but psychology isn't like other sciences. The topics are really interesting.'

'I've enjoyed learning new information about topics that I'm really interested in. We learn something new every lesson that we can relate to our everyday life. I am really interested in finding out about memory and how it works- How I can improve mine!'

'Learning about the animal studies was the best part because it is different to other subjects and learning about the different pieces of intriguing psychological research is interesting.'

'You get any support that is needed from the teachers.'

'Psychology is great if you enjoy interactive and challenging lessons.'

Specification

Exam Board— AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>

Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Psychology and GCSE Grade 5 in one Science

If not studied previously at least GCSE Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature and at least GCSE Grade 5 in one Science

For further details please contact

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