

Psychology

at MSJ Sixth Form



Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. It is a fascinating and popular subject, and studying Psychology will help you develop an understanding of how we function as individuals and why people and groups sometimes behave in unusual and unpredictable ways.

Studying Psychology will enable you to develop skills such as critical thinking, creative writing, practical research skills and an inquiring mind.

TO PURSUE THE A LEVEL COURSE SUCCESSFULLY, PUPILS IDEALLY NEED A MINIMUM OF:

GCSE Maths 5, GCSE English 5, GCSE any Humanities 5, GCSE Biology or Dual Science 5

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is diverse and covers several topics in the context of real life experiences. These include how your memory works, how your personality develops through early childhood experiences, how culture and society influence people's behaviour and how psychological abnormalities are defined and treated. You will learn about the different approaches within Psychology and how these approaches view behaviour differently. During the A Level a number of these areas will be explored in more depth and further topics such as relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology are investigated. Robust research is crucial to all of these areas, therefore you will study the different techniques and methods that Psychologists use to conduct scientific research into human behaviour.

IS IT THE RIGHT COURSE FOR ME?

What skills will I need?

You should enjoy debating and discussing the merits of different theories and research, be prepared to conduct small scale experiments to develop your understanding of research, and be willing to participate in group projects and presentations. The course and the examinations include some mathematical elements and some extended pieces of writing.

WITH WHICH OTHER SUBJECTS DOES IT WORK BEST?

Psychology complements many other subjects in the Sciences, Humanities and Arts.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS?

Psychology students develop numerous transferable skills that complement a wide range of subjects at university and in their transition to employment. Psychology is a versatile subject and will give you skills that are compatible in many fields of employment.

HEAD OF SUBJECT

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EXAM BOARD

AQA

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

A Level is assessed through 3 papers

Each paper is worth a third of the final mark

Each paper is 2 hours

Paper One: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Topics: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology

Paper Two: Psychology in Context

Topics: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods

Paper Three: Issues and Options in Psychology

Topics: Issues and Debates, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology