

Psychology

Qualification	GCE Psychology
Awarding Body	WJEC
Entry Requirements	GCSE Maths B GCSE Biology B

Course Overview

Ever wondered why some people commit crimes while others don't? Why you feel sick before an exam? What schizophrenia is and what causes it? Psychology has the answers!

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychology explains human behaviour through genes, hormones and neurotransmitters, the way we think, our upbringing and how we learn. Psychology will help you develop essential skills of description, analysis and evaluation. You will also have the chance to practice teamwork, communication and presentation skills. These skills are known as 'transferable' as they will be very useful in University and employment. The course involves class experiments testing your memory or responses to stress, visits to Cardiff Crown Court to observe criminal cases, learning research methods by conducting your own small scale research projects and fundraising activities for local mental health charities.

The units you will study are:

Unit 1

Past to present - Biological, cognitive, behavioural, psychodynamic and positive approaches to explaining human behaviour

Unit 2

Exploring behaviour - Investigating human behaviour through research methods and contemporary issues such as 'The ethics of neuroscience'

Unit 3

Implications in the real world - Topics including schizophrenia, addiction and criminal behaviour as well as key psychological debates.

Unit 4

Applied research methods - Conducting psychological research e.g. an experiment on bilingualism or the chameleon effect, a case study on learning or a questionnaire on relationships.

How this course will be assessed

100% examination:

Unit 1 – Past to present

Key psychological approaches, therapies and research
(Assessed by a 90 minute exam)

Unit 2 – Exploring behaviour

Theory of research and contemporary debates
(Assessed by a 90 minute exam)

Unit 3 – Implications in the real world

Human behaviours such as schizophrenia, addiction and criminal behaviour plus controversies
(Assessed by a 2 hour 30-minute exam)

Unit 4 – Applied research methods

Personal research study and research methods
(Assessed by a 90-minute exam)

What Next?

Psychology is beneficial for a wide range of jobs; from traditional psychology careers such as forensic, sport, health and counselling psychologists to marketing, people management and PR. Employers like Psychology students because you will have a good understanding of the way people think and behave.

Visit <http://www.bps.org.uk/careers-education-training/careers-education-and-training> to find out more.

Additional Information

Psychology is well matched with all subjects due to the wide range of topics and skills. A few examples are the scientific study of the brain matched with Biology; analysis of evidence matched with History; theoretical understanding matched with RE; Sport Psychology matched with P.E.

Anyone with an interest in human behaviour will enjoy Psychology. In order to be successful in Psychology you will need to have good mathematical skills, an aptitude for understanding complex biological processes and excellent essay writing skills.