

Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form

KS5 CURRICULUM

Course Title: **A Level Psychology**

Examination Board: AQA



Entry Requirements: A grade B in Science, English and Maths. Psychology is considered a Science, and there is a large scientific and mathematical element to it.

Assessment: Psychology is assessed by three 2 hour examinations at the end of year 2. The exams include a range of short answer question and stimulus material along with questions requiring extended, essay writing skills.

Is This Course Right For Me?

Firstly, you need to be interested in people. You should be willing to participate, to share your ideas and interpretations and to listen to others. As the course involves a great deal of written work (essays, reports and lots of note-taking), the ability to write coherently and accurately is a vital skills to develop. You will need to be willing to put in effort and commitment as Psychology is a very demanding A Level! A skill that will certainly help is that of personal organisation – of time, paper and energy!

Example of university courses and grades required

- University of Bath: Bsc (Hons) Psychology: A*AA.
- University of Kent: Bsc (Hons): Applied psychology with placement (4 yrs): AAA.
- Goldsmiths, University of London: Bsc (Hons) Clinical Psychology: AAB-ABB.
- University of Northampton: Bsc (Hons) Developmental and Educational Psychology: BBC.
- Manchester Metropolitan University: Bsc (Hons) Forensic Psychology: BBB-BBC.

Unit Contents:

PAPER 1 (2 hrs, 33.3%)

Cognitive Psychology

Including models of memory, explanations for forgetting, and the accuracy of eyewitness testimony.

Developmental Psychology

Including early social development, cultural variations and explanations of attachment, and the effects of deprivation on later relationships.

Social Psychology

Including conformity, obedience to authority and independent behaviour.

Psychopathology

Including definitions of abnormality, characteristics of phobias, depression and OCD, and approaches to explaining abnormality and therapies.

PAPER 2 (2 hrs, 33.3%)

Approaches to Psychology

Including psychodynamic, cognitive, behaviourist, evolutionary and biological approaches to studying behaviour.

Biopsychology

Including the divisions of the nervous system, the structure and function of neurons and of the endocrine system, and the role of adrenaline.

Research Methods

Understanding the research procedures used in psychological research (design, procedure, analysis of results, evaluation).

PAPER 3 (2 hrs, 33.3%)

Issues and debates

Including cultural and gender issues, the nature/nurture debate, and debate between determinism and free will.

Option 1 [one topic from]

Relationships, Gender or Cognition and development

Option 2 [one topic from]

Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour or Stress

Option 3 [one topic from]

Aggression, Forensic psychology or Addiction

Progression:

The great thing about Psychology is that it doesn't close any doors. An A Level in Psychology can be the first step into a career in Psychology such as clinical, forensic, educational, occupational, sports, health or environmental psychology, as well as teaching or research. Psychology is a highly regarded qualification by higher education institutions and employers alike; especially in fields that are 'people-oriented' – such as marketing,

Further Information Contact:

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