

Subject: Psychology

Level: A Level Exam Board: OCR



Course Outline

This qualification offers an engaging and effective introduction to psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

What will I learn on this course?

This course will enable you to:

- acquire knowledge of, and a critical understanding of, psychology;
- appreciate how psychology applies to our everyday lives;
- understand psychological research methods;
- reflect on your own experiences;
- develop skills which enhance your ability to participate effectively in adult life.

Who would be a successful student of Psychology?

This course will appeal to students who:

- have a genuine interest in people's behaviour;
- have a commitment to understanding why people behave as they do, at the same time as keeping an open mind;
- enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying their beliefs;
- enjoy learning in a variety of ways, including class presentations, as well as individual study.

Career Opportunities

You will find this course useful if you wish to follow a career in the following areas:

- Teaching
- Psychologist
- Social work
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Civil Service.

Course Structure for OCR A level Psychology

Component 1 Research methods

This component is intended to introduce and develop a knowledge and understanding of the process of planning, conducting, analysing and reporting psychological research across a range of experimental and non-experimental methodologies and techniques.

Students are required to conduct their own practical work. They are provided with the opportunity to understand what's involved in a range of different research methods and techniques. An awareness of associated strengths and weaknesses is also developed. Students are encouraged to reflect on their research journeys as they develop vital investigative skills and develop an appreciation of the principles of empirical scientific enquiry.

Component 2

Component 2 introduces key themes and core studies in psychology. The selection of classic and contemporary studies enables students to appreciate how psychological knowledge and understanding develop over time and enables students to place research in its historical context. The contemporary studies are more 'up-to-date' pieces of research that engage in some way with the issues being explored in the classic studies they are paired.

By the end of the component, students will have built up a varied knowledge of exemplar studies, a sound understanding of key themes and areas, and strong critical evaluation skills.

Component 3

Component 3 introduces a new and engaging compulsory section on issues in mental health and an exciting range of options as students discover how psychology is used in applied areas, choosing two options from a choice of four:

- Child psychology
- Criminal psychology

Through this component, students explore applications of psychology and gain an insight into how theory can be applied to real-world situations. The assessment provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning through extended writing.

Methodological issues and debates also run throughout components 2 and 3 and include:

- Nature/nurture
 - Freewill/determinism
 - Reductionism/holism
 - Individual/situational explanations
 - Usefulness of research
 - Ethical considerations
 - Conducting socially sensitive research
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