

PSYCHOLOGY

A Level

Why Study this course?

Psychology lessons are very interesting and incorporate a range of interactive and innovative teaching and learning strategies.

What You'll Study

- Paper 1 (Introductory topics in psychology – A-level) – In your first year you will learn about the topics of memory, social influence, attachment and psychopathology
- Paper 2 (Psychology in context – A-level) – In your first year you will learn about various different approaches to explaining human behaviour (e.g., biological, cognitive and behaviourist) and you will also develop knowledge on psychopathology and research methods.

You will carry out your own research on human behaviour as part of this unit. In your second year you will also learn about biopsychology and two other approaches to behaviour – psychodynamic and humanistic.

- Paper 3 (Issues and Options in Psychology – A-Level only) – In the final unit you will study a range of issues and debates in psychology such as gender and culture bias, the nature-nurture debate and free will and determinism.

You will also study 3 optional topics which are likely to include relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology.

Career Progression

Studying Psychology will open up lots of options for you:

- Some of our students go on to study Psychology at university.
- Careers in Psychology (e.g. clinical psychology, educational psychology, health psychology, forensic psychology, sport psychology, counselling).
- Teaching and research.
- You do not have to follow a career in psychology just because you have taken the A-Level. Psychology is useful in many other careers because it develops a number of transferable skills. It links well to law, social work, the police, childcare, personnel work, the media, management, advertising, medicine, nursing and health professions.



Why study Psychology at PWSFC?

Why I chose Psychology

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the course and the support you receive from the teachers is amazing. We were provided with thorough resources to help prepare for exams and progress is constantly tracked through regular assessments. Teachers are always available for any extra help needed or for general support. The topics that I have most enjoyed learning are mental health, the unconscious mind and different explanations for human behaviour. I started the year with no idea about what I wanted to do in university, but now I am hoping to do Psychology at degree level." – **Omayma**

"We both chose psychology because we enjoyed it a lot at GCSE. In year 12, a lot of interesting topics are covered such as: why the holocaust happened; concepts of sanity vs. insanity; and why we develop animal phobias. We have also enjoyed learning about the functions of the brain and especially cognitive development where we examined the ways in which the brain is continually developing. Psychology helps us to understand other people. The support we receive from our teachers is excellent because the lessons are interesting and we get lots of exam focussed revision materials."

– **Sanjeet and Oskar**

If you like this subject, you may also like:

Sciences, Health and Social Care, Sociology, Law

Why Parrs Wood?

At the end of year 12 there will be the opportunity to visit Manchester University to find out "What Psychological Scientists do" by attending an interactive talk.

In year 13 you will have the chance to travel to London to learn more about behaviour attending lectures given by Elizabeth Loftus or Philip Zimbardo. You may also witness hypnotism!



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