

**Subject: Psychology****Qualification: A level****Course overview**

Students will study the main approaches to Psychology to gain an understanding and insight into the science concerned with the study of mind and behaviour. Students will develop their analytical thinking skills through a scientific approach their learning. The course comprises of three units: Unit 1- Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology; Unit 2- Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods; Unit 3 – Issues and Debates in Psychology and three optional topics, such as Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology (optional topics are subject to change).

**How is the course assessed?**

Grade A\*– E awarded. Assessment comprises of three examinations linked to each unit and each are worth 33.3% of the final Grade. Each exam is two hours long. The exams will consist of multiple choice, short-answer and extended writing questions.

**What can A level psychology lead to?**

Completion of this qualification will give between 16 and 56 UCAS points, to gain entry onto a degree course or entry into the workplace. Psychology can lead to further study and careers including business, accounting, social work, law and medicine.

**Case Study**

<b>Year Group and Term</b>	<b>Subject Knowledge</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Curriculum/CIAG Links</b>
<b>Year 12 Term 1</b>	Introduction to psychology, looking at the origins of psychology and a timeline of the approaches	Students sit a baseline assessment at the start of year 12 to assess prior GCSE maths and science knowledge	Students learn the fundamental research methods skills in Term 1, which enables them to take psychology beyond the classroom

	Approaches in psychology – biological, learning (behaviourist and social learning theory) and cognitive approaches Introduction to research methods – experimental methods and designs, hypothesis construction and the observational method	Students work towards writing an extended written essay, with lots of essay structure support Short and long answer questions each fortnight	
<b>Year 12 Term 2</b>	Paper 1: Psychopathology. Students can use their knowledge from approaches to help understand the development and treatment of mental health disorders (depression, phobias and obsessive compulsive disorder) Research methods – this term, students build on their initial understanding of research methods to explore other ways of investigating behaviour (self report techniques, case study method)	Short answer questions, covering the range of knowledge, application and evaluation skills Extended written essay In Term 2, students complete their tracking point assessment piece, which covers a range of knowledge and assesses all of their assessment objective skills	Students learn about different treatments for OCD, depression and phobias, and through this learn about the different professionals working in this field
<b>Year 12 Term 3</b>	Paper 1: Memory. Students study the main models of memory and use these to understand how to apply these to the real world, such as revision techniques. They build upon their research method skills by designing and carrying out psychological investigations	Short answer questions, covering the range of knowledge, application and evaluation skills Extended written essay Practical investigation with psychological report write-up	Students build upon their application skills by designing and carrying out research and creating psychological reports to bridge the gap between A level and degree level skills
<b>Year 12 Term 4</b>	Paper 1: Social Influence. An understanding of conformity, obedience and how this impacts society. Examines key examples throughout history (apartheid, The	Short answer questions, covering the range of knowledge, application and evaluation skills	Through the topic of social influence, students will understand conformity and why people conform or obey. They

	Suffragettes, MLK etc.). Emphasis placed on personality	Extended written essay In Term 4, students complete their second tracking point assessment piece, which covers a range of knowledge and assesses all of their assessment objective skills	will be able to apply this to making sense of history and other social issues, e.g. bullying, 'mob' mentality and peer pressure
<b>Year 12 Term 5</b>	Paper 1: Attachment. Understanding of why humans need attachments and the evolutionary benefits of them. Reflecting upon own attachments. Understanding future impacts of earlier attachments. Analysing impacts of disruption in early attachments	Short answer questions, covering the range of knowledge, application and evaluation skills Extended written essay	SMSC links: Part of the attachment topic is looking at the change of the role of the father, looking at this role in society. Students will consider the economic implications of research into the role of the father. Students will also understand their own attachments and reflect on current relationships. This should help students understand the importance of maintaining key relationships, particularly at such significant stages of their lives
<b>Year 12 Term 6</b>	<b>Paper 3: Issues and Debates.</b> To understand significant issues and debates that are consistent across all areas of psychology. This topic is taught at the end of Year 12 to bring together AO3 elements from paper 1	End of Year 12 exam, covering all course content from this year Over the summer break, students are expected to review their year 1 learning and map	Knowledge on the current issues and debates throughout psychology will build on their critical thinking skills and

	topics and give students the skills to further evaluate topics in year 2	across the issues and debates links from Term 6	prepare them for a career in any social sciences field
<b>Year 13 Term 1</b>	<b>Paper 2: Biopsychology.</b> This topic builds on from the biological approach; getting students to understand the biological basis of human behaviour and furthering this to understand functions of the brain	A detailed question level analysis us used from Year 12 end of year exams to plan revision and intervention sessions Short and long answer questions each fortnight Extended written essay	This topic has strong links to biology and A level biologists will be lead learners in this topic to support other students
<b>Year 13 Term 2</b>	<b>Paper 3: Forensic Psychology.</b> Students will learn explanations for criminality and how it can be “treated” (e.g. token economy systems and restorative justice). This topic builds on student’s year 1 knowledge from biological and cognitive approaches to understand offending behaviour Research methods – students gain an understanding of different statistical techniques used in psychology to determine whether a difference or association is significant or not	Short answer questions, covering the range of knowledge, application and evaluation skills Extended written essay In Term 2, students complete first formal mock exam, which covers a range of knowledge from Year 12 and 13 and assesses all of their assessment objective skills	Statistical tests will bridge the gap between A level and degree level learning giving students the opportunity to report their own findings from practical investigations. Curriculum links from maths and geography
<b>Year 13 Term 3</b>	<b>Paper 3: Schizophrenia.</b> Students will learn to understand schizophrenia the co-morbidity rates with other common mental illnesses. This includes symptoms, classifications, explanations and treatments.	Short answer questions, covering the range of knowledge, application and evaluation skills Extended written essay	By looking at explanations and treatments for schizophrenia, students can learn about the different careers to support

	Will build on knowledge from the cognitive, behavioural & biological approaches		individuals with mental health disorders
<b>Year 13 Term 4</b>	<b>Paper 3: Relationships.</b> Students will look at theories of romantic relationships, including attraction and the breaking down of relationships. This topic also covers virtual and para-social relationships and the drawbacks to disclosing information online. This topic will build on the learnings from the biological approach	Short answer questions, covering the range of knowledge, application and evaluation skills Extended written essay In Term 4, students complete their second formal mock exam, all of their assessment objective skills. Students will sit three papers in preparation for their exams in May/June	SMSC links: Studying relationships at this stage in their development is crucial for our students. Understanding theories and applying them to real-life situations of their own has helped students reflect on their own relationships and manage them better
<b>Year 13 Term 5</b>	Revision and exam preparation		
<b>Year 13 Term 6</b>	Revision and exam preparation. End of course		

For further information on this course please contact:	<a href="mailto:Laurashergold@universityofkentacademiustrust.org.uk">Laurashergold@universityofkentacademiustrust.org.uk</a> <b>Executive Subject Leader of Psychology</b>
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