



PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCHOLOGY IN THE SIXTH FORM

Psychology has the potential to create a sense of wonder in anyone who studies it. It is the personal science that explores how we make sense of the world, ourselves and others. It is about the gaps between sensation and perception. It is about the wonder of being alive. Could there be another subject that is more engaging, more relevant or more personal?

Psychology A-level was first examined in 1971 and since that time has attracted more and more candidates each year so that it is now the fourth most popular A-level. This growth has also been mirrored at degree level and psychology is now an important part of the general education of the nation.

WHAT SKILLS WILL PSYCHOLOGY GIVE ME?

One of the important factors making psychology special is not the skills themselves, which are often also relevant to other disciplines, nor is it specific items of knowledge, but it is the sheer number of skills and range of knowledge involved.

Psychology integrates areas of knowledge which span the arts and the sciences and in the process, provides students with a liberal education, as well as a particularly wide range of practical and professional skills.

“Psychology is one of my favourite subjects. Miss always manages to make all the lessons fun and exciting.”

Table 1: I am glad I chose to study Psychology *Source www.bps.co.uk (2013)*

Answer options	Response %	Response count
Strongly agree	50.9%	440
Agree	31.7%	274
Neither agree or disagree	10.6%	92
Disagree	4.1%	35
Strongly disagree	2.7%	23

I  **PSYCHOLOGY**

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The A-level specification consists of 8 compulsory units and 3 optional units. There are 3 examinations all of which are 2 hours long and worth 33.3% of the A-level. There is no coursework.

Paper 1—Introductory topics in psychology which consists of: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.

Paper 2—Psychology in context which consists of:
Approaches in psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods

Paper 3—Issues and Options in psychology



Issues and debates in psychology and a choice of units such as:

Relationships

Stress

Gender

Aggression

Schizophrenia

Addiction

DID YOU KNOW THESE PSYCHOLOGY FACTS?

We can understand any message up to a certain point as long as the last and first letters of words are in correct places

Research shows that men know they're falling in love after just three dates, but women don't fall in love until date 14.

50 per cent of your overall sense of happiness is genetically determined, and so cannot be altered.

Since the 1990s, when DNA testing was first introduced, Innocence Project researchers have reported that 73 percent of the 239 convictions overturned through DNA testing were based on eyewitness testimony. One third of these overturned cases rested on the testimony of two or more mistaken eyewitnesses. How could so many eyewitnesses be wrong?

STUDENT STATEMENTS

"PSYCHOLOGY IS AN INTERESTING SUBJECT, WHICH MAKES YOU THINK ABOUT THEORIES, WHICH ARE WEIRD, BUT AT THE SAME TIME UNDERSTANDABLE. THE LESSONS ALWAYS HAVE SOME INTERESTING ACTIVITY, WHICH HELPS YOUR LEARNING ABOUT THE SUBJECT. I WOULD RECOMMEND THE SUBJECT BECAUSE IT'S NOT THE USUAL 'FACT' BASED SUBJECT. IT HAS INTERESTING CASE STUDIES AND EXAMPLES, WHICH HELP YOU THINK/APPROACH THINGS IN A DIFFERENT ASPECT".

"EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT PLANNING ON PURSUING A CAREER IN PSYCHOLOGY, I RECOMMEND THAT YOU TAKE IT UP AS IT WILL GIVE YOU A DEEPER INSIGHT INTO HUMAN BEHAVIOUR AND THE WAY IN WHICH WE THINK. I ESPECIALLY ENJOYED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY THAT DEALS WITH DIFFERENT INFLUENCES WITH WHICH WE ARE FACED AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS A SOCIETY. NOW I AM GOING TO UNIVERSITY TO STUDY LANGUAGES AND I HOPE THAT THE KNOWLEDGE I HAVE ACQUIRED WILL HELP ME IN MY FUTURE CAREER AS AN INTERPRETER".

"There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."

Shakespeare (Hamlet)

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind." William James (1842-1910)

"Don't become a mere recorder of facts, but try to penetrate the mystery of their origin."

Ivan Pavlov (1849-1936)

If you would like to discuss the A Level specifications and the options that the Psychology Department offer, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Helen Fisher, Head of Psychology

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