

Why study Psychology?



This specification aims to give learners a wide knowledge of psychology and a sound understanding of issues, debates and perspectives. This specification provides learners with a good grounding in preparation for higher education and an awareness of how to apply psychology to everyday life and the world around them.

It is designed to provide students with the exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of psychology, which will allow students to:

- Gain hands on experience of a range of different research methods encouraging active learning.
- Appreciate how psychological knowledge and understanding develops over time.
- Explore applications of psychology and gain an insight into how psychological theory can be applied to real world situations.
- Develop the ability to communicate effectively using appropriate language and become psychologically literate citizens.

What will you be learning?

There are 3 exams at the end of Year 13; Component 1 includes multiple choice questions as well as other shorter and longer answer questions. Component 2 is a mix of shorter and longer answer questions. Component 3 is mostly longer essay questions covering the compulsory topic of Issues in mental health and the 2 option choices which are Child psychology and Criminal psychology.

Component 1

This focuses on research methods and covers the following areas;

- Research methods and techniques
- Planning and conducting research
- Data recording, analysis and presentation
- Report writing
- Practical activities
- How science works

Component 2

This focuses on Psychological themes through core studies in 5 key areas which are social, cognitive, developmental biological and individual differences. Students will learn all about the research/theories/perspectives and understand their strengths and limitations and consider the wider implications of the findings.

The 20 core studies, 10 of which are classic studies such as Milgram's 1963 work on obedience to authority and 10 are contemporary studies such as Casey et al's 2011 study into Neural correlates of delay of gratification.

Students will also learn the debates within Psychology –

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

It is really important that students understand how psychological research can help us to understand real life events such as 'how children are influenced' or 'how students maximise their learning'.

Component 3

The compulsory topic covers various issues in mental health, including alternatives to the medical model of mental illness and historical concepts of mental illness.

The 2 optional units, child and criminal psychology, will each include biological, cognitive and social explanation of human behaviour, including theories of cognitive development in children and biological explanations of criminal behaviour.

The exam is holistic and requires students to apply their knowledge of debates, areas and perspectives to each topic.

What are the lessons like?

Lessons will be a mix of teacher led presentations, work sheet activities, group tasks and discussions as well as carrying out 4 practical pieces of research after and writing up psychological reports.

Want to know more?

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability please contact p.stewart@qes.org.uk