**Psychology**

**Psychology is taught at Key Stage 5. It encompasses the science of mind and behaviour. It is wide ranging in content and requires the development of a number of skills. It is a subject enjoyed by many students, particularly those who feel comfortable with science subjects, mathematics and English.**

**Students follow the OCR specification:**

**OCR AS Unit G541 – Psychological Investigations (30%)**

1 hour exam – split into 3 x 20 mark sections, each one based around a given scenario

**AS Unit G542 – 15 Core Studies (70%)**

2 hour exam – Section A is a 4 mark question on each of the 15 studies

Section B – choice of 3 studies, answer questions on the method involved, suggest improvements and consider their implications

Section C – approaches and perspectives

As a guide the AS level currently covers the following topics:

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|  | **Psychological Investigations** | **15 Core Studies** |
| Sept / Oct | Learn basic terminology: experimental designs, IV/DV, types of experiment, ethics | **Physiological** approach studies  **Developmental** approach studies |
| Nov/ Dec | Types of observation  Strengths/weaknesses of observation | **Social** approach studies  Continue developmental approach studies |
| January/February | Self-report: questionnaires, interviews strengths/weaknesses | **Cognitive** approach studies  **Individual differences** approach studies |
| March/April | Correlations: types, meanings  Experiments: manipulating data, validity, reliability | How to answer Section B  How to answer Section C  Consolidation of studies and approaches |
| May | Exam prep. + exam | Exam prep. + exam |
| June | Begin A2 Psychology | Begin A2 Psychology |

Assessment will be made throughout the AS-level, focussing on examination technique, knowledge and understanding. Students will be given prior notice of tests and mock exams.

In **year 13** the subject becomes increasingly challenging and gives students the opportunity to learn about various studies, topics, approaches and debates. It also involves a significant component of psychological investigations (methods).

**A2 Unit G543 – Applied Psychology (50% of A2)**

2 hour exam – descriptive and evaluative questions on both Health & Clinical Psychology and Forensic Psychology

**A2 Unit G544 – Approaches, Perspectives, Issues, Debates and Methods (50% of A2)**

1 ½ hour exam – Section A (design and evaluate a study on a given research topic)

Section B – short essays on psychological approaches/debates/issues/methods/perspectives

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|  | **G543** | **G543** |
| Sept / Oct | Health & clinical: healthy living (health promotion, adherence, dysfunctional behaviour) | Health & clinical: stress (causes, measurement, management) |
| Nov/ Dec | Health & clinical: dysfunctional behaviour continued (including explanations and treatments) and  Forensic: reaching a verdict (persuading a jury, factors influencing verdicts) | Forensic: turning to crime (a comparison of explanations and evidence for why people end up involved in crime) and making a case (interviewing suspects, interviewing witnesses) |
| January/February | Mock exams + begin **Unit G544**  Section A psychological investigations | Mock exams + begin **Unit G544**  Section B approaches and exam technique |
| March/April | Statistics  Designing and evaluating a study | Debates (e.g. nature/nurture)  Issues (e.g. ethics) |
| May | Exam prep. + exam | Exam prep. + exam |

Again, assessment will be based on exam technique, knowledge and understanding. Students are expected to revise from September through until June in their independent learning time, and this work will form much of their exam preparation.