

PSYCHOLOGY

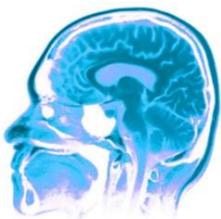
Psychology is a popular subject which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including scientific analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace. The new qualification offers students an engaging introduction to the study of psychology, combined with the academic integrity and skills that Higher Education and employers value. Our new course will continue to ensure that the psychologists of the future will have a fascinating and coherent introduction to the subject at St Joseph's College.

The A-level consists of three 2 hour written exams to be taken at the end of Year 13. These exams are equally weighted and cover a wide variety of topics:

Paper 1 Introductory Psychology	Paper 2 Psychology in Context	Paper 3 Issues/Options in Psychology
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social influence• Memory• Attachment• Psychopathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approaches in Psychology• Biopsychology• Research Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issues and debates• Relationships• Eating behaviour• Forensic psychology

Mathematical content: A minimum of 10% of the examined questions must now be based on mathematical skills. These skills include: arithmetic computation (ratios, fractions); handling data (statistical tests, probability, frequency tables); algebra; and graphs.

Careers linked to Psychology



There are several careers in which knowledge of Psychology would be an advantage. These include the prison service, social work, teaching, psychiatry, police, human resources, and marketing & advertising. There are also many different kinds of Psychologist. Further information on careers related to Psychology can be found on the British Psychological Society's website at www.bps.org.uk.

The difference between Psychology and Sociology

There are fundamental differences between these two subjects. Briefly, Sociology is the study of society. It is largely essay based, and includes elements of politics, history, the study of social institutions (e.g. the family, education) and has the themes of social class, gender and ethnicity running throughout the course.

Psychology, however, studies factors that affect the individual's behaviour. The emphasis is on the processes that occur within the individual and between the individual and their surroundings. It involves much more scientific understanding and maths than the sociology course, and includes study of physiological factors in behaviour.



Please note: Psychology students are requested to purchase textbooks for the course. The cost is around £25.00 for Y12 with further books needed in Y13. New copies are not essential, as good second hand copies are available through Amazon and similar.

Further Information AQA provides a comprehensive website at www.aqa.org.uk. You can find everything you need to know about Psychology A-level here.