

A Level

Psychology

AQA



If you choose not to continue this subject onto year two, you are able to sit an AS exam at the end of year one.

Course Content

Paper 1: Introduction to Psychology

Compulsory content

1. Social influence
2. Memory
3. Attachment
4. Psychopathology

A level Assessment: 2 hour exam, MCQ, short answer and essays: 33.3% of A-level

Year 1 Assessment only: 90 min exam on Topics 1-3 only

Paper 2: Psychology in context

5. Approaches in Psychology
6. Biopsychology
7. Research methods

A level Assessment: 2 hour exam, MCQ, short answer and essays: 33.3% of A-level

Year 1 Level Assessment only: 90 min exam on Topics 4, 5 and 7 only (ie not Bio-Psychology)

Paper 3: Options

8. Issues and debates in Psychology
9. Gender
10. Schizophrenia
11. Aggression

A level assessment: 2 hour exam involving MCQ, short answer and essays: 33.3% of A-level.

Note: The Year 1 exams do not contribute to the A level grade. All students need to sit Papers 1 -3 for their A level even if they have also previously completed the Year 1 exams.



Methods of Teaching

A range of teaching styles is used including group assignments, individual assignments and whole class lessons. Many of these activities are interactive and involve student participation in replicated research studies and experiments. Subject notes, handouts, videos and computer programs are integrated into the course. Regular lunchtime workshops are provided. Individual guidance is given where necessary.

Psychology

Methods and Patterns of Assessment

The many controversial issues in psychology are best explored in essay form. Good levels of literacy, as well as the development of critical thinking are needed. During the course, prepared and timed essays will be marked to A level standard.

Financial Implications

Students will need to buy an A level textbook (approx. £25). Comprehensive course booklets which include student notes and class activities are provided for each student via the intranet. Each student needs to print these out. At least one London conference is organised per year, it costs approximately £40 to attend. Other visits are arranged as appropriate to the Freud Museum and even a trip to China. The College has a Student Support Fund for those students who have difficulty meeting these costs.

Career Possibilities

Degrees in Psychology can lead to careers in Clinical, Educational and Occupational psychology. Psychology graduates are also valued in advertising, market research, industry, personnel management, counselling, nursing, social administration, professional sport, criminology and even teaching!

Related Course

As a scientific subject, Psychology combines well with any other science subject, but equally it can be studied in conjunction with any other course. For reasons of good communication in essay writing, many arts subjects could be advantageous even though Psychology is classified as a science.

Minimum Entry Requirements

5 GCSE's at grade A* - C, including Maths and English, plus a B in any of the following GCSE's:

- Additional Science
- Biology or Chemistry or Physics

If you do not have a B in the above Sciences you will need to have achieved a grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths.

Apply online: www.psc.ac.uk/apply t: 01962 857555 e: admissions@psc.ac.uk

Peter Symonds College, Owens Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 6RX