



## A Level Psychology

KS5 Leader: Mrs C Godleman • Exam Board: AQA

### Course Entry Requirements:

GCSE Grade 4 in English

### Course Outline:

Psychology as a subject has great relevance to us all; it investigates the way humans and animals think and behave; including memory, attachment in early childhood, research techniques, abnormal behaviour and stress. Psychology is a contemporary and popular subject providing a good basis for a number of arts and Science subjects, and a wide variety of careers; clinical, forensic, educational and sports psychology, education and teaching, social work, psychiatry and medicine, media and journalism to name but a few.

**The A Level** - This is designed to be a stand-alone qualification and will be examined at the end of the two year course. There will be three exam papers, each being 2 hours long. All papers will contain Research methods and continue to develop mathematical skills particularly statistics. The method of assessment will be written and primarily in essay format.

**Paper one** – This comprises of Social Influence, Memory and Attachment building on the work learnt in year one. It also introduces Psychopathology bringing in mental illness.

**Paper two** – Psychology in context, comprising of approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods. This paper is designed to build on the knowledge learnt in year one.

**Paper three** – Issues and options in Psychology. Issues will introduce a range of debates in Psychology that dominate the way we think – Nature V Nurture, Holism and reductionism, Idiographic and Nomothetic approaches. There will also be nine options to choose from that will put Psychology into practice: Relationships, Gender, Cognition, Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour, Stress, Aggression, Addiction and Forensic Psychology.

### Assessment:

A Level	Paper 1	33.3%
	Paper 2	33.3%
	Paper 3	33.3%

### Learning strategies:

- Decision making, role plays and data analysis
- Laboratory work and fieldwork.
- Applying and evaluating psychological ideas.
- Homework including examination questions, essays and research.
- Self-study using school resources.
- Presentation assignments (individual and group) including use of ICT.
- Active engagement in enquiry into problems, issues and questions
- Group discussions.
- Challenging and engaging class discussions on problems, issues and questions.