

PSYCHOLOGY

QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD	AQA
CONTACT TEACHER	Mr Eaton
LESSONS PER FORTNIGHT	5

What will you learn?

- The difference between sensation and perception.
- Processes of memory: encoding (input) storage and retrieval (output).
- Explanations for visual illusions: ambiguity, misinterpreted depth cues, fiction, size constancy.
- A basic knowledge of brain development.
- Dweck's Mindset Theory of learning: fixed mindset and growth mindset. The role of praise and self-efficacy beliefs in learning.
- Identification and explanation of how social factors (group size, anonymity and task difficulty) and dispositional factors (personality, expertise) affect conformity to majority influence.
- Differences between human and animal communication.
- The possible relationship between language and thought.
- Explanations of non-verbal behaviour.
- Structure and function of the nervous system.

Course Overview

Psychology is the science of the mind in which students will learn how psychologists seek to explain human behaviour.

Psychology includes many sub-fields of study such areas as human development, sports, health, clinical, social behaviour and cognitive processes.

Because psychology is a science it attempts to investigate the causes of behaviour using systematic and objective procedures for observation, measurement and analysis, backed-up by theoretical interpretations, generalisations, explanations and predictions.

Assessment

Overview			
Paper 1	Cognition and behaviour: 1 hr 45 mins written examination	100 marks	50%
Paper 2	Social context and behaviour: 1 hr 45 mins written examination	100 marks	50%

- **Section A:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)
- **Section B:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)
- **Section C:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)
- **Section D:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

The exams will measure how students have achieved the three assessment objectives:

- **AO1:** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes and procedures.
- **AO2:** Apply knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes and procedures.
- **AO3:** Analyse and evaluate psychological information, ideas, processes and procedures to make judgements and draw conclusions.

What students say

Positives:

"It is very interesting, you start to understand why people behave the way that they do."

Be aware of:

"It is hard. You need to be good at revising on your own, there is lots to remember."

Qualities needed to do well:

"A good memory and ability to go away and revise on your own at home."

Careers and Pathways

College:

- A-Level Psychology
- A-Level Sociology
- BTEC Criminology

Careers

- Clinical Psychiatrist
- Social work
- Counselling
- Sports Psychologist
- Child Psychologist
- Police

