

# Psychology

## Is this course for me?

This course will appeal to those students who:

Are interested in exploring human behaviour

Who want to take part in discussions on topics which will reflect upon their own lives.

Who would like to pursue careers working with people.

Students will learn the fundamentals of Psychology and develop skills valued by Higher Education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

## Units of Study

### Unit 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology

- ◆ Social influence—looking at conformity, obedience, explanations for resistance to social influence.
- ◆ Memory—models of memory, explanations of forgetting and eye witness testimony
- ◆ Attachments—theories of attachment, types of attachment, effects of not having an attachment
- ◆ Psychopathology—definitions of abnormality, characteristics of phobias, depression and obsessive compulsive behaviour, various approaches in treating these disorders

### Unit 2 - Psychology in Context

- ◆ Approaches in psychology—basic assumptions of learning theory, cognitive approach, biological approach, psychodynamic approach and Humanistic Psychology.
- ◆ Biopsychology—how the nervous system works, functions of the endocrine system, flight or fight response, how the brain can be studied and biological rhythms
- ◆ Research methods—different research methods used to gather data in Psychology, the scientific process and data handling.

### Unit 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology

- ◆ Issues and debates in Psychology—gender bias, freewill vs. determinism, nature vs. nurture, Holism and reductionism, idiographic and nomothetic approaches and ethical implications
- ◆ Cognitive Development - Theories of cognitive development and the development of social cognition.
- ◆ Schizophrenia—classification of schizophrenia, biological explanations, Psychological explanations, drug therapy, cognitive therapy
- ◆ Aggression—neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression, evolutionary explanations of aggression, social psychological explanations of aggression, institutional aggression, media influences on aggression

## Entry Requirements

There is no prescribed prior knowledge required for this qualification. However, it is recommended that students have achieved a level 6 or above in GCSE English and a level 4 or 5 in Maths. Psychology is assessed through examinations so it is important that students are confident in this aspect of assessment. An important aspect of Psychology is having an enquiring mind and an interest in why people behave in the way they do.

## What will this course prepare me for?

This subject will prepare students for Higher Education in any subject area, but will equally prepare them for the challenges of life in the twenty-first century. A Psychology degree is critical if you would like to take up a career as an Educational, Industrial, Criminal or Occupational Psychologist. Other relevant career paths include management, personnel, teaching and the police force.