**Psychology**

We follow the AQA exam board specification. All students are provided with access to an online version of the course textbook and this can be accessed from home. A class set of hard copies of this textbook will be used in lessons. We also plan to allocate students a revision guide each which should be returned at the end of the course. Textbooks should be used to support learning in the first instance but should be used in conjunction with other texts and materials. The department subscribes to Psychology Review and articles from this can be photocopied for students to enhance their understanding of the subject and particular topics. We encourage students to subscribe so that they receive their own copy of this magazine. Any students interested should speak to the Head of Department.

The outline of the course is as follows:

**For current Year 13 students:**

**A2 YEAR**

Unit 3: PSYA3

* Psychology of Relationships
* Psychology of Aggression
* Psychology of Eating Behaviour

Unit 4: PSYA4:

* Schizophrenia
* The Psychology of Addiction
* Research methods

**Exams:**

PSYA3 & PSYA4 exams: PSYA3 = 1 hour 30 minutes, PSYA4 = 2 hours

The exam papers at A2 are much more essay focused and most of the questions are in essay form (24 marks per essay). However, the exam board are moving towards asking slightly shorter essays (e.g. 16 marks) and including more shorter answer questions (e.g. 8 marks).

**For current Year 12 students:**

**Compulsory content:**

* Social influence
* Memory
* Attachment
* Psychopathology
* Approaches in Psychology
* Biopsychology
* Research Methods
* Issues and Debates

**Plus one option from each of the three bands:**  
1. Relationships or gender or cognition and development (tbc)  
2. Schizophrenia or eating behaviour or stress (tbc)  
3. Aggression or forensic psychology or addiction (tbc)

**A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY - ASSESSMENT**

**Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology**  
Includes: Social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology

**Paper 2: Psychology in context**  
Includes: Approaches in psychology, biopsychology, research methods

**Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology**  
Includes: Issues and debates in psychology and the three options chosen

Each exam is a 2 hour exam and worth 33.3% of the A Level qualification. Each exam includes a combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

**Exam Papers:**

Exam papers are available on the AQA website and examples of these will also be used in lessons and for homework. Exam style questions will be used in class and for milestone assessments.

Extension activities will be used in lessons to challenge students' thinking.