

IB Psychology

HIGHER AND STANDARD LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

The aims of Psychology are to enable students to:

- Develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied for the benefit of human beings
- Ensure that ethical practices are upheld in psychological inquiry
- Develop an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behaviour
- Develop an understanding of alternative explanations of behaviour
- Understand and use diverse methods of psychological inquiry

What does it involve?

In both Higher and Standard Level Psychology, students will undertake three core areas of study in the first year. These are biological, social and cognitive psychology. As a department that strives to create engaged students who can enjoy and apply their learning, a thematic approach is taken where students will look at key issues of interest and see how those areas of Psychology can explain real life problems and areas of research.

The themes in Lower Sixth are Criminology, Social Influence, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Love and Relationships. Alongside this, students will also learn research methodology and undertake various experimental pieces of work. It is hoped that all students will take on the Higher Level extension topics of Animal Experimentation, Globalisation and Cognition in a Digital World as these will help to stretch their knowledge and enable them to score well at both Standard and Higher Level.

In the second year, Higher Level and Standard Level students will study Abnormal (Clinical) Psychology as an applied module. Higher Level students will then also take the Psychology of Human Relationships applied module and the Qualitative research module.

How is it assessed?

Psychology Higher Level

Three papers:

- Paper 1 (35%) which covers biological, social and cognitive psychology
- Paper 2 (25%) which covers two applied modules – abnormal and human relationships
- Paper 3 (20%) which covers qualitative methodology
- Internal assessment (20%) which is based around a group work quantitative experiment and marks are awarded for the written report.

Psychology Standard Level

Two papers:

- Paper 1 (50%) which covers biological, social and cognitive psychology
- Paper 2 (25%) which covers one applied module – abnormal
- Internal assessment (25%) which is based around a group work quantitative experiment and marks are awarded for the written report.



Are there any specific entry requirements?

There are no specific entry requirements but students should have attained a grade C or above in GCSE (or equivalent) Maths, English and a Science (preferably Biology).

Non-native speakers of English should have achieved at least a level B2 qualification to cope with the scientific and essay based nature of the course.

Why is it a useful qualification?

Psychology is now recognised as a full Science, the equivalent of Physics and Chemistry and universities now welcome it as a facilitating subject.

As one of the most popular courses at both secondary and higher levels of education, it has encouraged students to consider how and why people behave the way they do.

Students who have taken this course have gone on to many different careers from working with chefs and supermarkets to medicine, business and marketing and, of course, the various disciplines within Psychology.

There are many transferable skills including report writing and statistical analysis which are useful for many different careers.