St Benedict's Sixth Form

A Level Psychology

Course Description

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour.

In the first year of your studies, you will study Clinical Psychology and Mental Health where the focus is on mental disorders including phobias, depression and OCD. In the second year, you will study schizophrenia as an entire topic. Forensic Psychology is also studied in the second year and includes topics on offender profiling and ways of dealing with criminal behaviour.

Other first year topics include social psychology, memory and attachment. In social psychology you will learn about how other people's behaviour affects our own to the extent that we might carry out 'evil' actions. In attachment, you study infants and find out the extent to which early relationships affect our subsequent relationships.

Skills Attained

Psychology is a knowledge based subject and the greatest skill that you'll develop will be the ability to acquire significant amount of knowledge which will stand you in good stead for any university course at any university. Possibly the most important skill that you will learn on the course is how to help others who suffer from a variety of disorders

Assessment

You will sit 3 two hour examinations all equally weighted in June in the second year of your studies. Paper 1— Social Psychology, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology, Paper 2 – Approaches to Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods Paper 3— Issues and debates, cognition and development, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology



Progression

Any combination of subjects goes well with Psychology as it is classed as a science and goes well with other science subjects, although the focus of the subject is on people and therefore it also goes well with humanities and English. Psychology is one of the most academically challenging subjects. Not only do students learn psychological theories and research studies but they also have to be able to apply such knowledge to a variety of novel situations meaning psychologists are highly sought after by many different employers and universities courses. An A-Level in Psychology can help with virtually any career choice. Previous Psychology students have gone on to study medicine as well as courses in law, pharmacy, optometry, teaching, nursing, politics, journalism, physiotherapy and criminology. If you chose to become a psychologist, you can specialise in either clinical, counselling, educational, forensic, health, occupational or sport and exercise psychology.

Student Voice

"I love learning how the mind works"
Leilani

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Maths
Grade 5-5 in GCSE Sciences
or Grade 5 in Biology

Exam Board: AQA

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