Psychology A Level

IF you are interested in the science behind what people do and why they do it, then Psychology is the subject for you! Psychology is 'the science of human mind and behaviour', looking at people as individuals and in groups, and attempting to explain a whole range of thoughts, behaviours and actions.

A Level Psychology is an excellent preparation subject for a degree course in Psychology and for a wide range of careers, including; education, clinical psychology, occupational and forensic psychology, medicine, counselling, criminology, mental health nursing, social work, cognitive science, and advertising. A Level Psychology is a two year course, assessed through examination only. At the end of the second year of study you will sit three exams. You will follow the AQA examination board.

Skills Required to Study Psychology
Science – Psychology is a science and therefore based on scientific principles and research.
Knowledge and retention – within Psychology you will learn about a range of theories. You must be able to recall how these theories work and explain those using key terms.
Application – you will need to apply your learning to unseen material. You will need to have good knowledge of the underpinning theories in order to explain real life behaviour.
Analytical skills – ability to evaluate theories and studies.
Maths – you will have to carry out practical experiments and be able to analyse data using a range of statistical tests.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology
(50% of AS, 33.3% of A Level)
Social influence (conformity, compliance and obedience)
Memory and forgetting (short-term memory, long-term memory, types of memories)
Attachment (attachment types in infants, deprivation and privation studies)
Clinical psychology and mental health (definitions in the field of mental health)

Paper 2: Psychology in Context
(50% of AS, 33.3% of A Level)

Approaches in psychology (biological, behaviourist, psychodynamic, cognitive, humanistic)
Biopsychology (how the brain influences behaviour)
Research methods (psychological studies and experiments and methods used to obtain results).

Paper 3: Issues and Debates in Psychology
(33.3% of A Level) Optional Subjects
Cognitive Development
Schizophrenia (symptoms, causes and treatments)
Forensic psychology (applying psychology to crime)

Where could this take you?
Clinical, health, occupational, developmental (child) and sport psychology; medicine, nursing, midwifery, mental health nursing, social work, teaching, advertising, media, criminology, criminal justice, international relations, research scientist, animal management and behaviour.

Entry Requirements
- Grade 6 or above in GCSE Science
- Grade 6 or above in Mathematics and English
- 5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above