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PSYCHOLOGY GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Candidates will pursue a course leading to the award of a GCSE 9-1 qualification at the end of Year 11.

The GCSE requires students to complete two units of work that are examined at the end of Year 11 in two written exams.

UNITS:

Unit 1: Cognition and Behaviour

Written examination - 1hr 45 min - 50% of grade

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research Methods

Unit 2: Social context and behaviour

Written examination - 1hr 45 min - 50% of grade

- Social influence
- Language, thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

Both exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills, mathematical skills, biology of the human body and extended writing and evaluative skills are crucial for a student's success in psychology.

Should my child study GCSE psychology?

Studying GCSE psychology is an excellent way to develop a foundational knowledge of how the human mind works, understand social behaviour and human development. Students will be able to draw upon on their own life experiences and apply knowledge gained in mathematics and biology to develop their understanding of human behaviour. There is a considerable amount of new subject specific vocabulary and psychological theory a student will study over the GCSE course and students with a keen interest in this subject will enjoy this challenge.

What will my child gain from psychology?

Students studying psychology will hone their analytical and organisational skills and learn about scientific research methods, including collecting and working with data. Learning about human behaviour can also help to build communication skills and improve teamwork and leadership skills. Studying Psychology enables students to develop greater confidence in how to resolve conflict and makes sense of the world around them. Links with mathematics and biology, will further deepen pupils' understanding in those areas and articulating considered responses and building structured arguments develops important literacy skills.

Where will psychology take my child?

GCSE psychology provides an excellent foundation for A level Psychology. However, students wishing to study A level psychology, do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE to be considered for the course.

Psychology is one of the most popular A levels as it develops skills that are sought after in business, management, sports, teaching, research, social work and careers in medicine, healthcare and law.

Further reading/ suggested revision materials:

Subject Specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182>

Revision guides and textbooks

<https://collins.co.uk/products/9780008646431>

<https://www.illuminatepublishing.com/product/aqa-psychology-for-gcse-revision-guide>

Websites

<https://learndojo.org/gcse/aqa-psychology/>

For further information, please contact:

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