



The Oldershaw School

A Level Psychology - HOD: Ms P Taylor

Course Outline & Exam Ratio

Psychology is an A level subject requiring students to argue effectively in essays and assignments; to describe and evaluate, drawing inferences from data and therefore requires a minimum grade entry of 6 in GCSE English, Science and Mathematics.

Students of A-Level Psychology will have the opportunity to study features of human development using a wide range of methods and approaches, including Cognitive, Social, Biological and Behavioural/Learning theories, as well as maths skills for data analysis, within the first Foundation year. This enables students to progress to Applications of Psychology in the second year, which include Clinical Psychology and Criminological Psychology. Using a scientific and statistical approach, psychology enables students to use methods and statistics to analyse and draw conclusions in a critical way.

Paper 1 – covering first foundation year studies – 2h – 90 marks, 35% - This covers social psychology, cognitive psychology, biological psychology and learning theories.

Paper 2 – covering second year studies – 2h – 90 marks, 35% - This covers clinical and criminological psychology.

Paper 3 – covering psychological skills – 2h – 80 marks, 30% - This covers the psychological skills elements of the course which include methodology, issues & debates in psychology and a review of the classic studies covered within the A Level.

Progression Routes

Psychology appeals to a wide range of students, regardless of whether they have studied it previously. It can lead to careers in a variety of areas such as Clinical, Educational, Forensic/Criminology, Business, Occupational and Health & Social, as well as medical. Other alternative areas of progression are Police, Counselling, Armed Forces and Sport.

Enrichment Opportunities

Visits to Chester Zoo, to observe behavioural development of animals and examines how these studies can be applied to human behaviour. Also, visits to the Liverpool Crown Courts to enrich the application of criminal psychology. In the second year we visit The Maudsley Hospital in London, to cover clinical psychology.

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