



PSYCHOLOGY

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS STONE
EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION: N/A
QUALIFICATION: AS OR A-LEVEL



Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour – investigating and explaining why we think and do what we do.

It is a superb choice to complement all your other A-Levels: it is a science as it relies on objective analysis of research evidence, it is a humanity as it about people, it gives a philosophical basis for interpretation of culture, art, music and literature.

It also offers a wide range of transferable skills critical thinking, time management, problem-solving, communication, increased general knowledge, numeracy and prioritising.

Small class sizes make me confident to ask questions and I feel I have a personal relationship with my teacher - she really knows me. It also means that I receive individual feedback and I can have a one-to-one conversation at any time which is especially useful after exams.

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WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN LOWER SIXTH

Approaches (different psychologists' ideas about why we behave as we do)

Research Methods (techniques and design for collecting evidence and analysis of the data)

Attachment (how bonds develop between infants and adults, animal research, Romanian orphan research)

Social Influence (conformity, obedience, resisting others' influence, how minorities can change society)

Memory (short- and long-term memory, why we forget, eye witness testimony, police interviews)

Psychopathology (defining abnormality, phobias, OCD, depression)

Biopsychology (function of the brain, plasticity, recovery from head injury, sleep patterns)



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN THE UPPER SIXTH

Issues and debates (gender and culture bias, determinism/free will, reductionism/holism, nature/nurture)

Gender development (androgyny, stereotypes, how we develop our sense of gender, GID)

Schizophrenia (biological and psychological explanations, range of treatments, issues of diagnosis)

Forensic Psychology (what makes a criminal, offender profiling, does prison work and dealing with crime)

WHY STUDY THIS AT TRURO SCHOOL?

So much support: you are known and treated as an individual – amazing practical opportunities, encouragement to stretch yourself, enthusiasm celebrated

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

We go beyond the specification to help you to think like a psychologist

Creative, dynamic approach to delivering an A-Level with highly experienced and qualified staff, including examining experience

Reflective tasks, brilliant for developing metacognition and also in the preparation of personal statements

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Class practicals at least once a fortnight on average

Opportunity for students to design and carry out their own research

Write a report in a scientific style like you will at university, including Harvard referencing

Best reports published as Truro School Psychology journal

Observational research skill development day at Newquay Zoo



EXTENSIONS

Psychology seminar - students have the opportunity to be stretched in a university-style seminar, meeting once a week to read and discuss original journal articles.

Psychology film club twice a term – watch movies that link to topics being studied eg "As Good As It Gets" - Jack Nicholson playing a character with OCD.

Social Science lecture twice a term – join with Economics and Philosophy to explore links between our subjects eg Issues in Online Gambling, The Enron Crisis.

Brain Awareness Week – a chance to share Psychology with the 1st-5th Years and an opportunity to take responsibility if you wish.

TRIPS, VISITS AND FIELD WORK

Observational research skill development day at Newquay Zoo

A trip to London to visit the Freud Museum London, Bethlem Museum of the Mind and the Science Museum is currently being planned for 2025-26.

The way the course is taught means that knowledge is embedded in a variety of ways. I wasn't sure about taking Psychology as I hadn't studied it before, but quickly it became my favourite subject: every lesson is different. I love being known and being stretched at the level I'm at.

LILY

TOP-LEVEL FACILITIES

Range of textbooks in digital and hard copy, tailored to students' individual needs

Specialist classroom with DVD and fiction library tailored to Psychology – all students can borrow novels linked to the topics they are studying eg "The Shock of the Fall" – schizophrenia

Research equipment for use in practicals

Past papers and mark schemes provided

Model brains to handle and take apart

WHERE WILL AN A-LEVEL IN PSYCHOLOGY TAKE YOU?

Transferable skills to any career or degree: critical thinking, report writing, oral and written, presentation skills, deeper understanding of people and why they do what they do.

Common career paths include: nursing, midwifery, medicine, neuroscience, psychology, business, management, teaching. Many students find that in seemingly unrelated degrees they use their Psychology as it is all about people and behaviour; eg Geography, Biology, Law, Languages, Politics, Philosophy, English, Art, Business, Computer Science and Economics.

