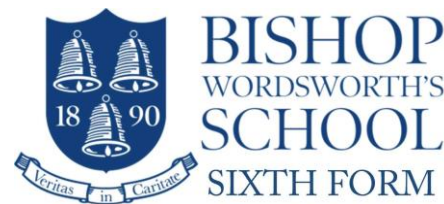


Psychology

AQA Specification



General information:

Psychology is a fascinating area of science that helps to develop a better understanding of human behaviour and mental processes. Psychology is a popular subject because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, group work and communication, research skills and problem solving. Students will become competent and confident as well as developing enthusiasm and interest in this complex but widely applicable subject.

Course content:

In Year 12 the course covers a wide variety of topics including; memory, forgetting and eye-witness testimony; social influence, the role of social change, conformity and obedience; psychopathology including explanations of obsessive compulsive disorder, phobias and depression and their corresponding treatments; attachment, early social relationships and adult relationships; approaches in psychology; research methods and biopsychology including the nervous system, structure and function of brain areas, ways of studying the brain and recovery from injury or trauma.

In Year 13 the course looks at fewer topics in more depth, analysing behaviour from a number of psychological approaches. You will study; gender and gender dysphoria, schizophrenia including symptoms, diagnosis and treatments and forensic psychology which covers criminal profiling, explanations for aggressive behaviour, serial killers, treatments for offenders and the justice system. Throughout the year the bigger issues will be discussed such as the nature- nurture debate, cultural and gender bias in psychological research and issues of free will and determinism.

How is the course taught and assessed?

Psychology is taught through a variety of activities such as class discussions, group work, projects and individual assignments. Students will be required to carry out practical experiments in the community as well as engage in activities and experiments within the classroom. As an essay-based subject, students will also be expected to do exam skills and essay writing practice as part of their class work and independent study time.

Assessment is by 3 x two-hour exam papers which are all taken at the end of Year 13 and each contributes 33.3% of the final grade. There is no coursework in AQA Psychology A Level. Research methods (including maths skills and statistical tests) will make up around 20% of the total marks across all 3 papers. Approximately 50% of the marks across all 3 papers will come from longer extended questions and essays.

Entry requirements:

In addition to general entry requirements for BWS, a grade 7 in maths or a science and a 6 in English Language.

Results information:

In 2023 83% of students achieved A* - B grades and 96% of students achieved A* - C grades.

Top destinations for students:

There are many different career paths linked to psychology. These include neuroscience; counselling/ therapy; sports psychology; educational psychology; forensic profiling; police; social services; health services. In addition, psychology is a subject which is very beneficial for careers such as HR, business and management, sales and marketing, amongst many other fields.