



Wakefield Girls' High School
 Queen Elizabeth Grammar School
Wakefield

Technical Information

A-level

A-level Course Title	Unit Code	Awarding Body
Psychology	7182	AQA (A)

A-level Examinations:

Name	Content	Method of Assessment	Marks
Paper 1	Introductory Topics in Psychology	Written paper: 2 hours	96
Paper 2	Psychology in Context	Written paper: 2 hours	96
Paper 3	Issues and Debates on 3 topics	Written paper: 2 hours	96

WGHS Senior School

(Girls 11-18 years)
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 Email: office@wghsss.org.uk
 Twitter: @WGHSYorkshire

QEGS Senior School

(Boys 11-18 years)
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 Twitter: @QEGSYorkshire

www.wgsf.org.uk

Course Guide

A-level Psychology

Psychology

Background Knowledge and Qualifications

Psychology is the fascinating study of mind and behaviour. Whilst you will not have studied this subject before, you will need many of the skills developed by more traditional academic disciplines throughout your school career. For example, Biological Psychology requires us to learn about adrenaline and its effect on the body, so a good grade in Science GCSE would be an advantage. Each examination paper features at least one essay question, so extended writing skills are also important. Mathematical skills and the ability to engage in reasoned debate are vital because of the requirements to analyse and evaluate numerical data and to discuss the ethics of using animals and humans for psychological research. Enthusiasm and an enquiring mind are extremely important too!

Course Description

In the psychology course we study social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology, approaches with biopsychology, research methods, and issues and debates within psychology.

Social influence is centred on the theories of conformity and obedience and the role of social influence processes in social change. We look at how memory works and the different models for understanding memory; we also study memory in everyday life, such as eye witness testimony in crimes and strategies to improve our memory. When studying attachment we investigate how experiences of babies and infants with caregivers can affect their adult lives.

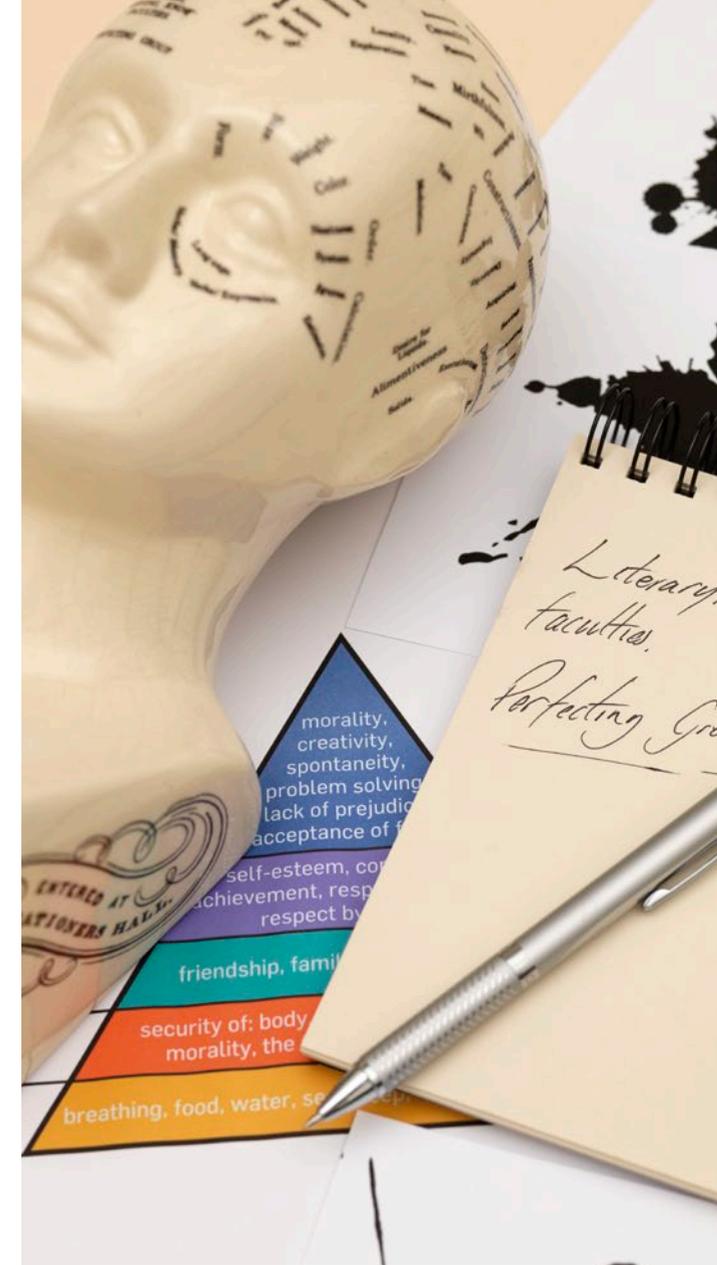
Psychopathology looks into abnormality and specific psychological disorders such as OCD, depression and phobias; we study both the characteristics of these disorders and the possible treatments for them. When studying the different approaches to psychology the course covers the cognitive, biological and behaviourist approaches to psychology. We look more deeply into biopsychology and in particular how it explains stress and sleep patterns. Throughout the topics we will also look at the research carried out in each area and understand the scientific processes used in psychological research and the data handling and analysis following this research.

When studying issues and debates in psychology we look at the bigger picture for psychology and how it has shaped our society. We consider things such as the nature-nurture debate and how society has changed as a result of psychological research and advances in theories. We look in depth at 3 topics and the issues surrounding these areas in terms of classification and treatment of disorders and how different approaches attempt to explain our behaviours.

Use of Course and Qualification

The course teaches the transferable skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation and so it is a subject which complements many others.

The subject is also incorporated into many other degree programmes such as Medicine, Law, Media Studies, Sports Studies and Criminology. Psychology can be taken as either a BSc or BA degree. Psychology taken at degree level can lead to careers working as a Psychologist, a Teacher, or in the business world.



Student Testimonial

Year 13 student
Proposed University
Course: Retail
Management

I have really enjoyed studying Psychology. It is fascinating to find out why people behave the way they do and how their brain works. Psychology develops a number of transferable skills such as problem solving, ICT and visual and written communication.