

SUBJECT: Psychology

YEAR: 12 and 13

HEAD OF DOMAIN: Mr M McCarthy

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/psychology-2015.html>

The course involves studying the following areas of psychology:

- **Cognitive Psychology** which examines how our mind works, specifically how memories are encoded and retrieved
- **Social Psychology** which investigates how our behaviour changes because of the way we interact with people around us, specifically in relation to obedience and prejudice
- **Biological Psychology** which involves learning about the effect of genes, brain chemistry and brain structure, specifically in their effect on aggressive behaviour
- **The Learning Approach** which looks at the influence of classical conditioning, operant conditioning and social learning (learning from role models)

Once this groundwork has been completed the course goes on to examine how **Child Psychology** explains early attachments to caregivers and the effect this has on later development and how **Clinical Psychology** explains and treats mental disorder. There is also an emphasis on research methods, from lab experiments to correlations, and the way in which quantitative and qualitative data is analysed, *including use of maths and statistics*.

What will homework look like?

Homework will involve a mixture of essays, project work, research and exam preparation. This is predominantly run through Google Classroom.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

Visiting speakers are brought in from the areas of mental health and crime. Examples of trips we have run include Gloucester Crown Court and the University of Worcester

How will my child's work be assessed?

At the end of Year 13 there are 3 written examinations:

- Paper 1: Foundations in Psychology (35%)
- Paper 2: Applications of Psychology (35%)
- Paper 3: Psychological Skills (30%)

How can I support my child in this subject?

Psychology is everywhere, especially in the news and media. One of the most powerful ways to support your child is to ask them about the topics being covered and how they might relate to current events. Every student is given a Personalised Learning Checklist (PLC). This could be a useful starting point for asking your daughter/son where they are in the course and how they are getting on.

How can I support my child with exams?

All past papers and mark schemes available on the Edexcel website – helping your child to download and use these for exam practice is a great way to help them with exams. The specification is available here:

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