



South
Nottinghamshire
Academy

A-Level Psychology

Why Psychology?

The British Psychological Society (BPS) define psychology as 'the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour, from communication and memory to thought and emotion'. The scope of Psychology is as wide as the breadth the human experience – impossible to summarise but Psychology is dedicated to through observation, measurement, and testing, to form conclusions that are based on sound scientific methodology.

Some specialist areas of Psychology include; Biological psychology - concerned with how biological processes in the brain and the body influence the mind and our behaviour. Cognitive psychology - concerned with the study of how humans think, including how we remember and retain information, how we perceive things, how we make decisions, how we solve problems, how we acquire language and more. Developmental psychology - concerned with how humans grow and change over a lifetime – not just physically, but socially, emotionally and cognitively too and. Social psychology – concerned with understanding more about how our behaviour is influenced by our environment and the presence of other human beings. Psychology is a rapidly expanding discipline with a reach into everything that people do, psychologist are used in marketing, businesses, elite sports, education and in therapy to name but a few applications.

What can I expect?

The Psychology course is broad and interesting introduction to some important psychological topics. This includes leaning about and evaluating key approaches. One such area could be to use the 'Nature-Nurture' debate to explain the development of pathologies. Is, for example a phobia learnt or innate. This is one small example but highlights some important analyse for students of Psychology. Most discussions centres upon the integrity and value of relevant research to make psychological arguments, and a large part of the course is dedicated to understanding research methods in Psychology and us

What do I need?

Normal entry requirements for Sixth Form will be a prerequisite. Psychology relies heavily on the expression of complex ideas, so a strong background at GCSE in English or History will be of an advantage. In addition, students should be able to have a good grasp of mathematical skills as some minor arithmetic may be required. Finally, student should expect a steep learning curve as this is likely to be a new subject not studied at GCSE, but with a good work ethic and interest this is easily managed.

What about the future?

Students who study Psychology will find that the critical thinking skills they learn are essential for higher education and beyond as well as the ability to use evidence in arguments. The list of potential careers is endless because Psychology links to all areas of human behaviour. More specifically though, students of Psychology often find themselves in career pathways such as; Therapy, Clinical Healthcare, Human Resources, Education, Childcare, Sports Psychology and Crime & Policing