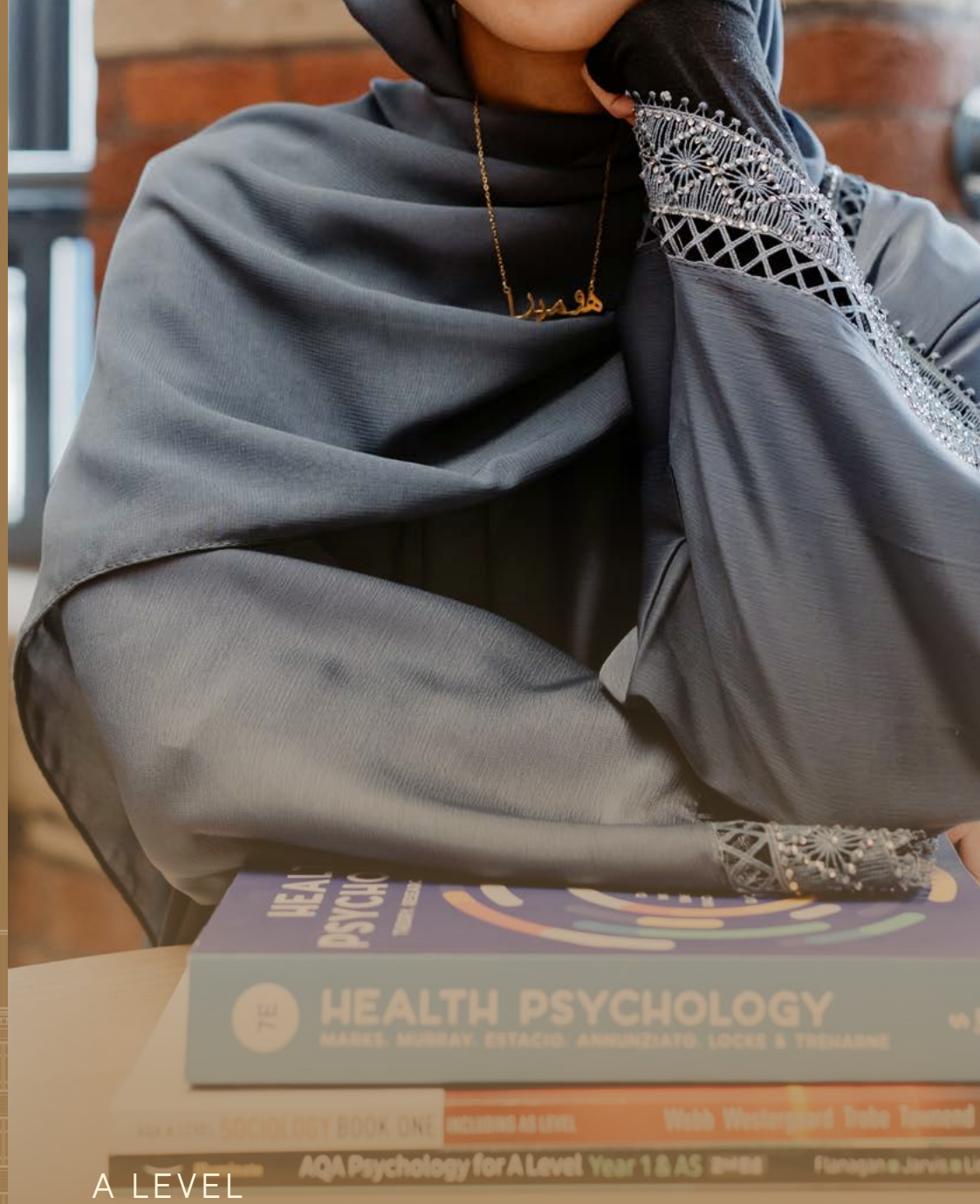
Integrity
Curiosity
Respect



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A LEVEL

Psychology

WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the study of thoughts, feelings and behaviours. An interest in the 'causes of behaviour' is essential to the study of Psychology. The subject allows students to gain an understanding of both the physiological and the psychological aspects of our make-up and investigates both the brain functions and the social stimuli involved in behaviour. Focus is placed upon analysis, evaluation, interpretation, ethical issues and critical appreciation of psychological methodologies.

WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE THIS COURSE

Psychology is an ideal choice for students who have an interest in understanding human behaviour from a scientific perspective. It is a subject for students who are inquisitive and fond of conducting research on issues or topics that are often overlooked, and critically evaluating the effectiveness of these. Students enjoy learning theories and content that enhance their understanding of everyday life.

The knowledge they gain within this A-Level gives them an opportunity to understand not only their own behaviours but also allows them to acknowledge reasons for various situations that occur around the world and within their social circle. Psychology A-Level compliments subjects like Science, Law, PE, Sociology, Mathematics, Art and Health and Social Care.

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO WITH THIS COURSE

Psychology A-Level leads to many university degree options. This includes Forensic Science, Psychology, Criminology, Neuropsychology, Education, Sport and Exercise Psychology and many others. The A-Level is also an excellent subject to aid progression into health-related subjects such as Medical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Science, Clinical Science, Nursing, Biomedical Science, Gateway to Medicine and Optometry. Furthermore, Psychology is a well-respected A-Level that can help students to progress into degree choices such as History, Economics, Art, Law, Finance, Sociology and more. Throughout the A-Level, students' interpersonal skills will be developed as well as their critical thinking and reasoning skills, thus making them desirable to future employers in all sectors. https://www.bps.org.uk/career-options-psychology

HOW THIS COURSE IS ASSESSED?

Three separate exams each lasting two hours and worth 96 marks each. Each paper is worth 33.3% of the overall grade. The course includes mathematical skills which are assessed in all three papers. The course is content heavy and therefore requires candidates to have an excellent memory alongside a dedicated attitude towards active revision.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website.

FURTHER READING

All AQA Psychology content and example exam practice can be viewed on the following links: https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology https://www.simplypsychology.org/

What the course covers

Paper 1: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology

Social Influence: Why do people conform and obey authority figures? How does social change happen? How can we resist social pressures?
Memory: How does memory work? Why do you forget? How accurate are eyewitness testimonies? How can we help the police improve the accuracy of eyewitness testimonies?
Attachment: How important are attachments in infancy? What effects can disruption of attachments have? What can we learn about human attachment from animal studies?
Psychopathology: How can we explain and treat mental health disorders (e.g. depression, OCD and phobias)? How is abnormality defined?

Paper 2: Approaches, Biopsychology and Research Methods

Approaches: What different explanations are there for behaviour? (e.g. cognitive, social, biological, psychodynamic)
Biopsychology: What areas in the brain control what functions? How do hormones and brain structure impact behaviour? How can we use our knowledge of biology to help improve the lives of others?
Research Methods: How do we conduct research in psychology? How do we analyse and present data? How can we work ethically with participants? What does a good psychological report look like?

Paper 3: Issues and Debates, Schizophrenia, Relationships, Forensic Psychology

Issues and debates: Do we have free will? In what ways is research culturally biased? Is it better to take a reductionist approach to explaining behaviour?
Schizophrenia: How does the structure of our brain influence the occurrence of schizophrenia and how can we treat it? How can the experiences we have as children influence the development of schizophrenia and how can families be used in reducing symptoms.
Gender: What is the influence of culture and media on gender roles? What is gender identity disorder? How does biology impact our gender? How can children's identity be shaped by their relationships with their parents?
Forensic Psychology: Do we commit crimes because of our biology or because of our upbringing? How do we deal with offending behaviour? How can we find a potential offender?

FURTHER INFORMATION

The complete specification can be viewed on the AQA website: www.aqa.org.uk