A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

If you are interested in people and curious to explore reasons for their behaviour, then this is the course for you. Successful Psychology students are scientists and apply objective research methods to answer fundamental questions about human beings.

Level 3 · A Level (or equivalent) · Penwith College

TOP COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

FASCINATING TOPICS | EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES | EXTENSIVE ONLINE RESOURCES | FRIENDLY APPROACHABLE SPECIALIST STAFF

SUPPORT

The A level Psychology team will offer you lots of ongoing support to help you achieve your potential both in class, via one to one termly reviews and online bespoke resources.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Our virtual learning environment covers every topic in detail and offers different types of resources from class notes, to videos and short quizzes. Online textbooks are also provided.

PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

Get to know your brain better, reinforce your course knowledge and learn about the latest research into neuroscience when the department hosts Brain Day, a practical workshop led by a world-renowned neuroscientist.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Successful Psychology students have an appetite for understanding how scientific principles can be applied to human behaviour and high achieving Psychology students develop analytical and problem-solving skills, have a keen eye for detail and enjoy using evidence to develop academic arguments. Alongside psychological concepts and theories you will acquire desirable soft skills such as communication, team working and relationship building, and specific competences in data collection, statistical analysis and report writing. Psychology is unique in that it fits well with a wide range of other subjects from the Arts and Sciences. Whatever your career path, Psychology provides you with an excellent foundation and a host of transferable skills.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The Psychology course is organised into 3 papers (or main sections) Introductory Topics in Psychology covers fascinating areas of human behaviour ranging from the influence others have on us, to the unobservable internal workings of the mind. **Psychology in Context** explores 5 of the main perspectives in Psychology, the influence of our biology on our behaviour and research methods, the application of scientific principles to the study of human beings. **Issues and Debates** explores philosophical debates in Psychology such as free will vs determinism, and issues such as gender and culture bias. Three option topics are covered in depth, namely Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology and Gender. **More detail on each paper is given below: Introductory Topics in Psychology:**

- **Social Influence –** including conformity, obedience, resistance to social influence and the role of social influence in social change.

- **Memory –** including the multistore model and types of long-term memory, the working memory model, theories of forgetting and eyewitness testimony.
- **Attachment**– infant caregiver interaction and the role of the father, learning theory and Bowlby's explanation for attachment, the strange situation and attachment types, cultural variations in attachment, Romanian orphan studies and the influence of early attachment.
- **Psychopathology**– definitions of abnormality, introduction to psychological disorders, characteristics of and behaviourist explanations of phobias, treating phobias, characteristics of depression and cognitive explanations of depression, treating depression, explanations of and treating OCD.

Psychology in Context

- **Approaches in Psychology**– Cognitive, Behavioural, Biological, Psychodynamic and Humanistic
- **Biopsychology**– synaptic transmission, autonomic nervous system, central nervous system and endocrinal system, adrenaline and the fight or flight response, localisation of function in the brain, plasticity and functional recovery after brain trauma, biological rhythms, methods of studying the brain.
- **Research Methods**– experiments, observations, self-report techniques, correlations, descriptive and inferential statistics

Issues and debates

- **Debates –** nature and nurture, free will and determinism, holism and reductionism, idiographic and nomothetic
- **Issues**– gender and culture bias and ethical implications in socially sensitive research
- **Optional topic one:** Schizophrenia (includes issues with diagnosis, explanations and treatments)
- **Optional topic two:** Gender (includes explanations of typical and atypical sex and gender development)
- **Optional topic three:** Forensic Psychology (includes explanations of offending, ways of dealing with offenders and offender profiling)

WHERE WILL IT TAKE ME?

Psychology is a valuable Social Science A Level providing a background for various employment opportunities, from Medicine to Law, Media to Business, Sport to Teaching or Criminology including HR, marketing, teaching and health and social care. Further training and experience beyond degree level is required for professions such as Clinical or Forensic Psychology.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including a Grade 6 in English and a Grade 5 in Maths or a Science. Students should be confident readers, able to write fluently and have good factual recall.

IMPORTANT

Course information can change. Please use the QR code below for the current assessment arrangements, entry requirements and start dates.

FOR THE LATEST COURSE INFORMATION

Scan for assessment arrangements, learner support, confirmed start dates and how to apply.