

Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

Psychology

Entry Requirement:

Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and Grade 5 in any GCSE Science **or** Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science **and** Grade 5 in GCSE English.

Awarding body: Edexcel

About the subject: Psychology is the science of human experience and behaviour. Psychologists research questions like “Why do humans behave differently when in groups?”, “Why does memory fail us?” and “Is aggression something we are born with or something we learn?” Later in the course, psychologists will look at Applied Psychology, such as criminology, child psychology, and sport psychology. They also consider wider issues, such as whether humans are free willed, the ethics of animal experimentation and the importance of differences between cultures.

Psychology is a Social Science that may lead to qualifications or careers in caring professions, education, health and policing as well as sport psychology, criminology and counselling. It links closely with subjects like Sociology and Physical Education as well as using many of the same concepts as the natural sciences (especially Biology).

This subject will appeal to students with a scientific frame of mind and in interest in different explanations of human behaviour. There is a focus on real world problems, from dementia to racism, but students will also have to apply scientific methods and statistical analysis. Many lessons involve carrying out short experiments to test theories. Homework frequently involves researching the real-world application of psychological concepts.

Assessment:

The two-year course looks at different perspectives in Psychology and how Psychology can be used to solve real world problems like crime, mental illness and prejudice. There are three examined units at the end of Year 13:

- **Paper 1** (*Foundations in Psychology*) introduces students to the Social, Cognitive, Biological and Learning approaches and includes two extended essays addressing issues and debates.
- **Paper 2** (*Applications of Psychology*) introduces students to Clinical Psychology and options to choose from criminal, child or sport psychology.
- **Paper 3** (*Psychological Skills*) is a synoptic paper focusing on research methods, issues and debates.

There is no coursework component but students must research their own ‘key questions’ and carry out their own practicals. There is also a statistical component in Papers 1 and 2 so students have to be able to make use of algebra, graphs and basic arithmetic.