

Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

Psychology

Entry Requirement:

Grade 6 in GCSE Psychology or Grade 5 in any GCSE Science and Grade 5 in GCSE English

Awarding body: AQA

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 clinical 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 an 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. Students are expected to use the digital textbook to prepare for lessons using the Cornell Notes system.

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 gender development. There are three examined units at the end of Year 13:

- **Paper 1** (*Introductory Topics in Psychology*) introduces students to Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.
- **Paper 2** (*Psychology in Context*) introduces students to the main Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods.
- **Paper 3** (*Issues & Options in Psychology*) is a synoptic paper focusing on issues and debates and 3 optional topics (Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology).

There is no coursework component but students will carry out practical research as part of their studies. There is also a statistical component so students have to be able to make use of algebra, graphs and basic arithmetic.