

PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE DETAILS

Qualification: OCR GCSE Psychology

Website: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/psychology-j203-from-2017/>

COURSE CONTENT:

Have you ever thought ‘why do people do the things they do?’ or ‘is it our biology or our upbringing that causes our behaviour?’ – if so, Psychology is the subject for you. Although there is no clear answer to these questions, we will look at different psychologists and their different points of view on these (and other) questions, using evidence and research (studies) to build your own point of view and develop your skills in arguing these viewpoints.

There are six main topics within OCR GCSE Psychology:

- **Criminal Psychology:** we will look at whether criminals are born or made and how criminals should be punished in society
- **Development:** we will look at how we change and develop across our lifetimes
- **Psychological Problems:** we will look at how mental health is defined and how disorders such as schizophrenia and depression develop
- **Social Influence:** we will look at how other people influence our behaviour, thoughts and feelings and why we conform or obey other people
- **Memory:** we will look at how our memory works and why we sometimes cannot remember things
- **Sleep and Dreaming:** we will look at the stages and function of sleep and the reasons why we dream

Within all of the topics, we will look at **research methods** and **neuropsychology**. Research methods involves planning, doing and analysing research so we will look at a range of different methods that you can use to carry out your own investigations and how to collect, analyse and present your data. Neuropsychology looks at the brain and its parts and how these can affect our behaviour. Throughout the whole course, we will look at the debates within psychology, including nature vs nurture and free will vs determinism, giving you an opportunity to further develop your own viewpoint on these debates and where you stand.

ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
• Criminal Psychology • Development • Psychological Problems • Research Methods	Studies and applications in psychology 1* (01) 90 marks Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes	50% of total GCSE
• Social Influence • Memory • Sleep and Dreaming • Research Methods	Studies and applications in psychology 2* (02) 90 marks Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes	50% of total GCSE

Both exams include multiple choice questions, source questions (where you need to apply your knowledge to a new situation), low and high mark questions and one essay on each topic.

HOMEWORK

Homework is viewed as an essential part of the course in helping to reinforce and develop knowledge and understanding. As the exams are at the end of Year 11, ongoing review of the topics we have covered will also be important to support you to prepare for these exams. Homework may include written work, research activities, reading, case studies, learning key psychological terminology or watching psychology related programmes.

WHERE CAN PSYCHOLOGY TAKE YOU?

You can continue to study Psychology at A level and it will support you in studying any of the sciences, Health & Social Care, Criminology, Business Studies. You can also progress onto academic and vocational degrees such as Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Sport and Exercise Psychology and many varied careers such as Police Officer, Human Resources Officer, Social Worker, Counsellor and Teacher. As Psychology is the study of human behaviour and the mind, it will be useful in any career working with people as well as in your own life.

MISS W ISON