

Course Title	Psychology
Exam Board	AQA
Course Description:	
<p>Paper 1</p> <p>Social influence: Conformity, Obedience. Minority Influence.</p> <p>Memory: Models of memory. Explanations for forgetting. Factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony.</p> <p>Attachment: Caregiver-infant interactions in humans. Stages of attachment. Multiple attachments. Animal studies of attachment. Explanations of attachment. Types of attachment. Cultural variations in attachment. Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation. Romanian orphan studies. The influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships.</p> <p>Psychopathology: Definitions of abnormality. The behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). Approaches to explaining and treating phobias, depression, OCD.</p> <p>A Level Paper 2</p> <p>Approaches in psychology: Learning approaches. The cognitive approach. The biological approach. The psychodynamic approach. Humanistic psychology. The influence on counselling psychology.</p> <p>Biopsychology: The divisions of the nervous system. The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. The process of synaptic transmission. The function of the endocrine system. The fight or flight response. Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation. Broca's and Wernicke's areas, split brain research. Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma. Ways of studying the brain. Biological rhythms: circadian, infradian and ultradian and the difference between these rhythms. The effect of endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers on the sleep/wake cycle.</p> <p>Research methods used in psychology</p> <p>A Level Paper 3</p> <p>Issues and debates in psychology: Gender and culture. The nature-nurture debate. Ethical implications of research studies and theory, including reference to social sensitivity.</p> <p>Relationships: Attraction. Formation, maintenance and breakdown. Virtual relationships in social media.</p> <p>Stress: The physiology of stress. The role of stress in illness. Sources of stress. Individual differences in stress. The role of social support in coping with stress.</p> <p>Forensic psychology: Problems in defining crime. Biological explanations of offending behaviour. Eysenck's theory of the criminal personality; cognitive explanations; level of moral reasoning and cognitive distortions; differential association theory; psychodynamic explanations. Dealing with offending behaviour. Behaviour modification in custody. Anger management and restorative justice programmes.</p>	
Assessment:	
Examination: AQA Psychology	
Admission Requirements:	
Grade 6 or higher in GCSE English and Maths and a grade 6 in GCSE Science – double or triple.	
Additional Information:	
<p>The subject is useful in enhancing social and communication skills and provides a deeper, more scientific knowledge of the human and non-human mind and behaviour. Psychology requires a versatile mind and a high level of commitment. This subject has many applications in the context of most occupations from nursing, teaching, policing, law, sports and business and looked upon favourably by employers in virtually all spheres. There are many occupations that involve a psychological background including Occupational Psychologists, Forensic Psychologists, Clinical Psychologists and Animal Behaviourists to name but a few. This is not a forum for counselling.</p>	