

# PSYCHOLOGY

## A Level

### What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. The human mind is the most complex machine on Earth. It is the source of all thought and behaviour.

Studying Psychology will teach you a lot about the way in which both yourself and other people think and behave.

It can be applied to many aspects of real life such as relationships, health/mental illness, child development, crime, education, sport etc.

### What can you expect?

Whilst we expect dedication and hard work from you, you can expect the same from us.

Psychology lessons are very interesting and incorporate a range of interactive and innovative teaching and learning strategies.



Visit to Psychology Conference in London.

### Provisional Entry Requirements

B in English and a C in Maths. However, if you have a GCSE in Psychology (C grade or above) then we accept a C in English.



### What You'll Study

There are 3 units that you will study in A Level Psychology:

- Paper 1 (Introductory topics in psychology – AS and Alevel) – In your first year you will learn about the topics of memory, social influence and attachment.

In the second year you will also study psychopathology as part of this unit.

- Paper 2 (Psychology in context – AS and Alevel) – In your first year you will learn about various different approaches to explaining human behaviour (e.g., biological, cognitive and behaviourist) and you will also develop knowledge on psychopathology and research methods.

You will carry out your own research on human behaviour as part of this unit. In your second year you will also learn about biopsychology and two other approaches to behaviour – psychodynamic and humanistic.

- Paper 3 (Issues and Options in Psychology – ALevel only) – In the final unit you will study a range of issues and debates in psychology such as gender and culture bias, the nature-nurture debate and free will and determinism.

You will also study 3 optional topics which are likely to include cognitive development, schizophrenia and forensic psychology.

PARRS WOOD | SIXTH FORM

### Why I chose Psychology - Maria

*"I picked psychology because it is a subject I excelled in at GCSE and it was something I genuinely enjoyed. For A level I wanted to pick subjects that would give me lots of opportunities when it came to University: Psychology is a broad subject that involves lots of transferable skills that will help me at university. Compared to the GCSE, the level of study is in much greater depth and we have learnt about lots of interesting case studies and theories."*



### Ideas for Progression

Studying Psychology will open up lots of options for you:

- Some of our students go on to study Psychology at university.
- Careers in Psychology (e.g. clinical psychology, educational psychology, health psychology, forensic psychology, sport psychology, counselling).
- Teaching and research.
- You do not have to follow a career in psychology just because you have taken the A-Level. Psychology is useful in many other careers because it develops a number of transferable skills. It links well to law, social work, the police, childcare, personnel work, the media, management, advertising, medicine, nursing and health professions.

### Exam results

The Psychology department are very proud of the exam results that our students achieve. The year 13 cohort last year were very successful.

- 42% A\* /A grades;
- 71% A\* - B grades;
- 88% A\* - C grades;
- ALPs score of 1

To find out more you can visit our website: [www.parrswood.manchester.sch.uk/sixthform](http://www.parrswood.manchester.sch.uk/sixthform)  
PARRS WOOD SIXTH FORM Wilmslow Road East Didsbury Manchester M20 5PG t: 0161 446 8648 e: m.tracy@parrswood.manchester.sch.uk

### Enrichment

At the end of year 12 there will be the opportunity to visit Manchester University to find out "What Psychological Scientists do" by attending an interactive talk.

In year 13 you will have the chance to attend a crime seminar and travel to London to learn more about behaviour attending lectures given by Elizabeth Loftus or Philip Zimbardo. You may also witness hypnotism.



Crime conference at Ellesmere Port



### Why we chose Psychology - Sanjeet & Oskar

*"We both chose psychology because we enjoyed it a lot at GCSE. In year 12, a lot of interesting topics are covered such as: why the holocaust happened; concepts of sanity vs. insanity; and why we develop animal phobias. We have also enjoyed learning about the functions of the brain and especially cognitive development where we examined the ways in which the brain is continually developing. Psychology helps us to understand other people. The support we receive from our teachers is excellent because the lessons are interesting and we get lots of exam focussed revision materials."*

