

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Awarding Body: AQA



Examinations:

Paper 1 – Introductory Topics in Psychology Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Clinical Psychology

Paper 2 – Psychology in Context Research Methods, Approaches and Biopsychology Paper 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology Issues and Debates, Schizophrenia, Relationships and Forensic Psychology

Course content

Studying Psychology at Newstead offers students an engaging and effective introduction to a vast topic area that is widely accepted as a science subject by most universities. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject along with exploring key areas of applied Psychology in more detail. Students will not only develop core subject knowledge but will also develop a vast array of skills valued by Higher Education and Employers including critical analysis, independent thinking, and research.

Three compulsory papers are sat at the end of the 2 years of study. Each paper is 2 hours and worth 96 marks. Exam questions include Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions, Application of Knowledge Questions and Essay Style Questions (8 or 16 marks).

Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology

Explores some of the foundational areas of psychology and introduces students to some of the main approaches to studying human behaviour (Cognitive, Behaviourist, Biological, Psychodynamic). Whilst learning the core assumptions of each approach, students will explore how the topic applies to real life. For example, students will explore the accuracy of eyewitness testimony, methods for assessing infant-caregiver relationships and why people obey authority figures.

Paper 2 Psychology in Context

Involves a detailed examination of the foundations of Psychology, including an examination of the history of Psychology from introspective early methods to more recent biopsychological investigations. Students will explore the scientific method and its application to Psychology, alongside the development of mathematical skills necessary for research analysis and interpretation. An examination of Biopsychology will include reference to brain damage and neuroplasticity.

Paper 3 Issues and Options in Psychology

Covered in Year 2 of study, this paper includes developing a comprehensive understanding of three main areas of applied Psychology – Human Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology. This sets the foundation for Undergraduate Study and explores in detail how psychological knowledge can be applied, and make a difference, in the real world.

Entry requirements

Level 7 or above in English, Maths and Science (7:7 if Double Award, 7 in Biology if Triple Award)

Future opportunities

Psychology is a popular A-Level Subject for the scientifically minded student and those with a more theoretical mindset. Universities recognise the rigour of Psychology A Level and many of our students go on to study Psychology at Undergraduate level. Students can apply for a Subject Student Leader role to be an ambassador for Psychology at the end of Year 12. This well-sought-after role allows students the opportunity to promote Psychology and explore wider learning opportunities.

Further information

In recent years, students have studied Psychology at Cambridge, Warwick, Essex, Brunel, UCL and Bath.