

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY



Course description

Awarding Body: AQA

Examinations:

Paper 1 – Introductory Topics in Psychology

Social Influence, Memory and Attachment

Paper 2 – Psychology in Context

Psychopathology, Research Methods, Approaches in Psychology

Paper 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology

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 72 marks. Exam questions include Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions, Application of Knowledge Questions and Essay Style Questions (12 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 psychology, developmental psychology and social psychology). 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 the area of Psychopathology will include reference to OCD, Depression and Phobic Behaviours with an exploration of symptoms, causes and treatments according to different psychology perspectives.

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 an incredibly popular A Level Subject for both the scientifically-minded student and also 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 student have gone on to study Psychology at Cambridge, Warwick, Essex, Brunel and Bath. For specific queries please e-mail: mdevereux@newsteadwood.co.uk