Psychology

CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL
ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Course: AQA A GCE A Level Psychology

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in at least 1 science, and 5 GCSEs grade 9-4 inc. English and Maths.

Aims of the Course:
This is a highly popular course, suitable for all students, and complements both Science and Social subjects. **What is Psychology? '… An ongoing process of trying to gain insights into the awe-inspiring complexity of human thought and action.' Hassett (1984)**

Course Content:
The course is divided into three units which are taken in Year 13 and each unit is assessed by multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. Each exam is 2 hours long and contributes to 33.3% of the total marks. Overall, at least 10% of the marks in assessments for Psychology will require **the use of mathematical skills.**

UNIT 1
Social Psychology – Obedience and Conformity asking 'Why we do the things we do'?
Cognitive Psychology – Models of memory, types of long term memory and explanations of forgetting.
Developmental Psychology – Explanations of human attachment and the impact it has on relationships.
Individual Differences and Psychopathology - Defining abnormality, explaining phobias, depression and OCD, and how we treat abnormality.

UNIT 2
Approaches in Psychology – Comparing various approaches in psychology which include: the learning, cognitive, biological, psychodynamic and humanistic schools of thought.
Biological Psychology – The nervous system; the structure and functions of various neurons; the endocrine system; the fight or flight response; the functions of various parts of the brain and techniques used to study this, and biological rhythms.
Research Methods – Gathering and deploying data by studying experimental and non-experimental methods, and analysing and presenting data. This includes understanding **inferential testing and the use of algebraic symbols**.

UNIT 3
Issues and debates in psychology – a consideration of concepts such as free will and determinism; gender and cultural bias in psychology; the nature-nurture debate, etc. In this unit you will also develop knowledge, understanding and skills of analysis and evaluation in relation to **three** topics selected from the following: **Relationships, Gender, Cognition and Development, Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour, Stress, Aggression, Forensic psychology and Addiction**

Assessment: You will complete a minimum of 2 graded assessments per half term. Assessment will be based on content and exam technique in order to prepare students fully for the exam.

Career Opportunities:
Administration, Advertising, Architecture, Behavioural Science, Communication Studies, Education, Marketing Science, Health Studies, Hotel Management, Industrial Relations, Linguistics, Law, Marketing, Media Studies, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Publishing, Recreational Studies, Sociology, etc.

Contact: Mrs K Ward

Please note, the stated information is provisional and subject to change. Reviewed: November 2026