



PSYCHOLOGY



Exam Board: Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC)

Staff: Robyn Brotherton

Summary of Course: A modular two year course with 2 units examined at the end of Year 12 and 2 units examined at the end of Year 13

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking Psychology?

There is no requirement to have studied Psychology before but students are expected to have at least a B grade in English Language GCSE (Or equivalent). The examination papers are designed to test the interpretation and explanation of psychological theories, therefore a high level of English language skills is required.

What will I learn?

Learners will be introduced to historical and current psychological approaches and classic and contemporary research. In addition there are opportunities to explore psychological controversies and debates. Learners will also study a variety of methods used by psychologists and will carry out their own investigations. Consideration of the ethical issues and implications of psychological endeavours will be emphasised in all aspects of the specification.

During the course the following units will be covered:

Unit 1 - Psychology: Past to Present

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. 20% of qualification.

The purpose of this unit is to give a solid grounding in some of the basic core elements of Psychology. The intention therefore is to allow the learner, through the study of classic research, to gain an appreciation that Psychology continues to develop and evolve. Learners will be asked to gain knowledge and understanding of the five approaches (biological, psychodynamic, behaviourist, cognitive and positive).

Unit 2 - Psychology: Investigating Behaviour

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. 20% of qualification.

The central aspect for this section is that of psychological research, from the initial planning stages through to the final stage of analysis and evaluation. It is designed to introduce learners to the methodologies used by psychologists in working scientifically and to gain an appreciation of the impact of choices made on the outcomes of the work and consequently the possible applications.



PSYCHOLOGY

A2 Psychology covers two modules: Implications in the Real World and Applied Research Methods.

Unit 3

Psychology: Implications in the Real World

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

40% of A-Level qualification

Having learnt about the various psychological approaches in Unit 1, learners are expected to apply this knowledge and understanding to human and animal behaviours. Learners should be able to explain and draw conclusions about the possible causes of these behaviours and understand that Psychology has the potential to impact on society as a whole by developing methods of modifying behaviour. In addition, learners should explore five controversies that continue to pose challenges for Psychology. These controversies can be considered syn optically and draw on the content from the whole of the specification.

Unit 4

Psychology: Applied Research Methods

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

20% of A-Level qualification

It is necessary for learners to know and understand the methodologies used in Psychology and be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these. To ensure true appreciation of these methodologies the learners are expected to gain first-hand experience of two research methods. Learners will be required to respond to questions concerning these investigations in the assessment. The second aspect of this component is for learners to apply their knowledge and understanding of research methods to novel research scenarios, making judgements on the details of psychological research.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

A Level Psychology is highly regarded amongst academic circles as well as in employment. The full A Level in Psychology provides the basis for students who wish to proceed to Higher Education to study Psychology, Criminology, Politics, Law, Business Management, Marketing, Journalism and HR.

Further information on specification and examination papers

<http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/psychology/>