

Psychology at Norbury High

Key Stage 4

Overview

Students will study the science of human behaviour, focusing on key topics, themes, approaches, and research methods. The programme provides a framework for students to explore core ideas and concepts in psychology through the question “why does a specific behaviour occur?”

Students will consider the development of psychological explanations over time, covering different aspects of human behaviour, to better understand and apply this knowledge to any given topic or field. They will then go on to explore the issues and debates that arise as a result of studying psychology and why they are intrinsic to its study. Issues and debates include those such as nature vs nurture; psychology as science and the ethical aspects of conducting research. Students must understand how these underpin understanding and knowledge and the very important impact they have upon any future development of the subject. Throughout the course students will consider *how* we study the complexity of human behaviour through consideration of research methods and evaluate their use when considering the validity and reliability of evidence.

GCSE Psychology

Students will sit Pearson’s Edexcel GCSE 9-1 Psychology at the end of year 11. There are two papers that students will sit. The GCSE courses provide pupils with access to a broad range of psychological knowledge through theory and studies. The topics are structured to build on knowledge gradually as this is an optional subject not necessarily studied by students at Key Stage 3.

Year 10

Paper 1:

1. **Development:** cognitive and moral development
2. **Memory:** short-term memory, long-term memory and forgetting
3. **Psychological Problems:** depression and addiction
4. **The Brain and Neuropsychology:** localisation of function, hemispheric lateralisation and synaptic function
5. **Social Influence:** obedience, conformity and bystander effects
6. **Extended 9 mark questions:** issues and debates & Synoptic Question

Year 11

Paper 2:

1. **Research Methods:** psychological methodology, ethics & analysis (*double module, taught over year 10 and 11*)

Optional subjects:

2. **Criminal Psychology:** biological and social explanations of criminal behaviour, rehabilitation, punishment and offender profiling
3. **Sleep & Dreaming:** functions and stages of sleep, disorders and dreaming

Other available options which are not taught: the self, perception, language, thought & communication