

NORTHGATE
SIXTH FORM **IPSWICH**
CENTRE



PSYCHOLOGY

GCSE

2019-2020

GCSE Psychology

AQA

What will I learn?

Have you ever wondered why people behave the way that they do? Have you ever wondered how you would be different if your environment was different? Would you be more intelligent if you went to a Private school? Do you always make your own decisions, or do you 'follow the crowd'? Are people born bad?

Psychology tries to answer questions like these by studying behaviour and looking for the reasons why people act in the ways they do.

Course content

The course is separated into two units:

Unit 1 – Cognition and Behaviour

Memory

We will look at the different types of memory including episodic, semantic and procedural memory. We will study explanations of how we remember. We will also consider factors affecting the accuracy of memory, including interference, context and false memories.

Perception

We will look at the differences between sensation and perception. We will also study explanations for visual illusions. We will also study factors affecting perception, including culture, motivation, emotion and expectation.

Development

We will study early brain development and the roles of nature and nurture in the brain's growth. We will study the development of intelligence in children, including Piaget's theory of cognitive development and Dweck's mindset theory of learning.

Research Methods

We will look at the different ways to investigate behaviour including laboratory, field and natural experiments, interviews, questionnaires, case studies, observations and correlations. We will study ways of making the study of people as scientific as possible.

Assessment

Paper 1 is a 1 hour 45 minutes paper including multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. It is worth 50% of the final GCSE.

Unit 2 – Social context and Behaviour

Social Influence

We will study social and dispositional factors affecting conformity and obedience. We will look at factors affecting whether or not we will help a stranger in need of assistance. Finally, we will study the behaviour of crowds and why they might behave aggressively or prosocially and how the crowd can affect an individual's behaviour.

Language, thought and communication

We will study the relationship between language and thought including Piaget's theory and the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. We will investigate the differences between human and animal communication. We will also study the different types of non-verbal communication and evolutionary and social explanations of non-verbal language.

Brain and neuropsychology

We will study the different parts of the nervous system. We will look at how neurons communicate with each other. We will explore the role of the nervous system in the fight or flight response. We will also study the functions of different parts of the brain and look at ways of studying the brain.

Psychological problems

We will look at how the incidence of mental health problems has changed over time and the effects of mental health problems on individuals and society. We will study the characteristics of depression, theories of depression and therapies for depression. We will also study the characteristics of addiction, theories of addiction and interventions for addiction.

Assessment

Paper 2 is a 1 hour 45 minutes paper including multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. It is worth 50% of the final GCSE.

Teacher to contact for further information:

Mr S Wootton

Sidegate Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 3DL
www.northgatesixthform.co.uk | Tel: 01473 210123
E-mail: northgatesixthform@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk
 [northgatesixthform](#) |  [@northgatesixthform](#)