

NORTHGATE
SIXTH FORM IPSWICH
CENTRE



PSYCHOLOGY

A-LEVEL

2019-2020

Social Influence

In this part of the course we will be looking at reasons why people conform to group norms and why people are willing to obey those in authority, even if they are asked to carry out unethical acts. We will also examine factors that lead to individuals resisting social influence.

Memory

In this part of the course we will study models of memory and explanations of forgetting. We will then apply what we have learned to the area of eyewitness testimony, looking at factors that can affect the accuracy of eyewitness accounts and ways of improving recall through specialised interviewing techniques.

Attachment

In this part of the course we will look at explanations of why children form attachments with their primary caregivers. We will study cultural variations in attachment and the effects of disruption to early attachments. We will also examine the influence of early attachment on later relationships.

Psychopathology

In this part of the course we will study abnormality. We will look at ways of defining abnormality and explanations that have been forwarded in Psychology to explain abnormality, focusing on phobias, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder. We will then study ways of treating these disorders.

Approaches in Psychology

In this part of the course we will study the history and development of Psychology. We will look at the different schools of thought within the subject to explaining behaviour, including the Psychodynamic, Behavioural, Cognitive, Humanistic and Biological approaches.

Research Methods

In this part of the course we will examine the different ways that psychologists carry out their research. We will look at ways of improving the validity and reliability of research. We will also look at ways of gathering and analysing data. We will also consider ethical issues that may arise when carrying out research in Psychology.

Biopsychology

In this part of the course we will study biological influences on behaviour. We will look at the influence of the nervous system on mental illness and the role that the endocrine system plays in the stress response. We will also study the roles that different parts of the brain play in behaviour and ways of studying the brain. Finally we will look at biological rhythms such as the sleep-wake cycle.

Issues and Debates in Psychology

In this part of the course we will consider key debates in Psychology including issues of gender and culture bias, the extent to which we have free will or our behaviour is predetermined, the nature vs nurture debate, the extent to which psychological theories and research are reductionist and ethical issues that may arise from research in Psychology.

Relationships

In this part of the course we will study evolutionary explanations for partner preferences. We will consider factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships and theories of romantic relationships. We will also study virtual relationships in social media. Finally we will investigate explanations for parasocial relationships.

Schizophrenia

In this part of the course we will study issues in the classification and diagnosis of schizophrenia. We will examine biological explanations of schizophrenia including the roles of genes, dopamine and the brain. We will also study psychological explanations including the role of the family and faulty thinking. Finally we will look at biological and psychological treatments of the disorder.

Forensic Psychology

In this part of the course we will look at issues in defining and measuring crime. We will study biological and psychological explanations of offending behaviour. We will also study the different approaches to offender profiling. We will examine the aims and psychological effects of custodial sentencing and issues of recidivism. Finally, we will study psychological approaches to dealing with offending, including behaviour modification, anger management and restorative justice programmes.

Assessment

The A Level is assessed over 3 papers; each is 2 hours in duration and worth 33.3% of the total A Level.

Paper 1 includes Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.

Paper 2 includes Biopsychology, Approaches in Psychology and Research Methods.

Paper 3 includes Issues & Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

What next?

Careers In Psychology:

- Criminal / Forensic Scientist
- Educational Psychologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Sports Psychologist
- Child Psychologist

Psychology would be useful in:

- Nursing
- Teaching
- Advertising
- Social Work
- Police Force
- Anything Involving People

Curriculum Leader: Mr S Wootton

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