

Stepney Green Sixth Form: A Level Psychology: Curriculum Statement

Intent

Aim

Studying A Level Psychology at Stepney Green Sixth Form is nothing short of inspirational and innovative. As subject specialists we value ourselves in constructing a course that not only prepares students for the exam but promotes students to begin using psychological skills in the real world such as critically evaluating contemporary research, become empathic of mental health illnesses and being an overall advocate of psychology in real motion. We focus heavily on cross-curricular skills honing in on the importance of statistical testing, measures of central tendency and dispersion and understanding biological structures of the brain. All elements combined make up a course that bodes well with both Humanitarian subjects and the core sciences.

Curriculum

AS Psychology (Year 1) is the first half (50%) of the A Level course that will contribute to your overall grade. This year can be either taken as a standalone AS course, or incorporated into the full A Level. During the AS Psychology course, students will sit two examination papers at the end of the year. The first paper will assess you on the content you have learned during the first unit. The second paper will assess you on the content you have learned during the second unit. There is no coursework in A Level Psychology. Though there will be plenty of opportunities to create and participate in your own psychological investigations with your peers.

AS Psychology (Year 2) is the second half (50%) of the Psychology course. A combination of both years will certify you of completing the full A Level Psychology course. The second year will involve completing three papers at the end of the year. Each exam assessment is equivalent to 33.3% of the overall mark. The first and second exam papers cover compulsory topics that have been taught throughout your AS year. The third paper includes a range of topics surrounding psychological issues in society. There is no coursework in Year 2 A Level Psychology. Though there will be plenty of opportunities to create and participate in your own psychological investigations with your peers.

A2 Psychology (Year 2) is the second half (50%) of the Psychology course.

A combination of both years will certify you of completing the full A Level Psychology course. The second year will involve completing three papers at the end of the year.

Each exam assessment is equivalent to 33.3% of the overall mark. The first and second exam papers cover compulsory topics that have been taught throughout your AS year.

The third paper includes a range of topics surrounding psychological issues in society. There is no coursework in Year 2 A Level Psychology. Though there will be plenty of opportunities to create and participate in your own psychological investigations with your peers.

Assessment Objectives

AO1: *The 'describe it' objective.* Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures. By outlining, describing or explaining research in any particular topic.

AO2: *The 'apply it' objective.* Applying knowledge and understanding scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures. This knowledge can be applied to
a theoretical context
a practical context
when handling qualitative data
when handling quantitative data.

AO3: *The 'evaluate it' objective.* Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to
make judgements and reach conclusions
develop and refine practical design and procedures

Style of assessment questions:

There will be an array of different questions styles during your exam. They are listed below.

Multiple choice questions: this style consists of a number of items that pose a question to which students must select an answer from among a number of choices.

Short answer questions: this style consists of open-ended questions that require students to create an answer. They are commonly used to assess basic knowledge and understanding of a topic.

Extended writing questions: this style consists of a broad question presented on a particular subtopic where students are expected to answer in an essay style format, incorporating the assessment objectives.

A Level Psychology: Implementation

Content

The department continuously updates the rigorous structure of the curriculum on a half-termly basis, ensuring both teaching staff and students are aware of information to be taught and content to be revisited. Content is taught in a chronological manner, whereby all lessons for Paper 1 exam is taught at the beginning of Year 12, Paper 2 lessons are taught midway through Year 12 and Paper 3 lessons are delivered at the beginning of Year 13. Allowing extensive opportunity for our students to revise thoroughly over their linear course in the second term of Year 13 up to their exam dates.

Paper 1 content is broken down below:

Social Influence (24 marks)

Memory (24 marks)

Attachment (24 marks)

Psychopathology (24 marks)

Paper 2 content is broken down below:

Approaches (24 marks)

Biopsychology (24 marks)

Research Methods (48 marks, double module)

Paper 3 content is broken down below:

Issues and Debates (24 marks)

Relationships (24 marks)

Schizophrenia (24 marks)

Forensics (24 marks)

Teaching and Learning

Lessons will be interactive, inspiring and informative. As a psychology student, you are required to actively participate in lessons by answering questions, contributing to discussions and sharing ideas. You will be given the chance to work in groups, create presentations, participate in experiments, and practice the art of independent study.

One lesson a week will be dedicated to 'research methods' as this aspect of the course is used throughout the year. In these lessons you will actively take control of your own learning and understand the scientific process of psychology. Rest of the weekly lessons will be dedicated to different topics accordingly.

How we will support you to do this:

- ✓ By creating innovative learning activities for you to develop a deeper understanding and passion for the subject.
- ✓ Support your learning where necessary, and provide additional intervention lessons or study sessions where possible.
- ✓ Endeavour to produce a safe, fun and positive learning environment for everyone.
- ✓ Set regular assignments and homework which will be marked and returned in due time, to help support you with your individual progress during the course.

Assessments

Stepney Green Sixth Form has three assessment point drops, one in each term. Within A Level Psychology we also include intermittent mini assessment in the first half of each term. This means by the end of one academic year, students are summatively assessed six times with formative assessments consistently being embedded throughout the course. This includes an array of work such as homework, timed essays in class, pop quizzes and self/peer assessed exam questions. Holistic assessments include past exam papers and exam papers created by the department.

Lessons are adapted with challenge tasks and literacy tasks to further support academic literacy of the students in the sixth form. A handbook is created for students to access all the long-term content for their course. Staff are set clear deadlines on when and where to complete resources, data or work. This is given without sufficient amount of time to complete, without hindering work-life performance/balance. Textbooks are utilised by teachers to be adapted to make accessible resources for the students.

A Level Psychology: Impact

This Psychology qualification will allow you to venture into the world and apply fundamental skills that are valued by many employers. These include having the ability to critically analyse information, present independent thinking and have the ability to research effectively. In an ever-growing competitive workforce in London, it is crucial that you are equipped and developed with skills that will prepare you to adapt to the environments around you.

Studying Psychology will open doors to numerous psychological fields that cater to all kinds of jobs. Continuing psychology onto Higher Education (HE) at university will help you become a professional in any psychological domain of your choice.

Here are a few professional job titles for individuals that wish to pursue a career in psychology.

- Educational psychologist
- Clinical psychologist
- Forensic psychologist
- Occupational psychologist
- Healthcare professional
- Social Worker
- Psychiatrist
- Researcher in psychology
- Psychological assistant in hospital