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| **Psychology, Eduqas (601/6044)** |  |

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind. In Psychology, we consider why we think, feel and act the ways that we do and how we might change these things. There are many different branches and areas of Psychology, including cognitive psychology and social psychology, so there is something for everyone. Psychology is well-suited to people who have enquiring minds and wonder about why we think and do certain things. It is also well suited to those with a scientific and analytical outlook who seek to explain things and are interested in research and experimentation. Psychology pairs well with a number of subjects, including Humanities subjects, the Sciences, English (particularly English Language which covers some child development content), Maths and Business Studies.

**Course Structure:** At Abbeyfield, we study the Eduqas Psychology qualification which consists of three components taken across two years.

**Component 1: Psychology Past to Present**

You will explore five key approaches within Psychology, considering how Psychology has changed and developed. In this component you will also consider a range of different psychological therapies for mental illness and evaluate them, as well as considering a number of debates within Psychology.

* **The biological approach** – ethics of neuroscience and psychosurgery included here – early psychosurgery is particularly gory and gobsmacking.
* **The psychodynamic approach** – a look at the weird and wacky world of Freud and also a look at the more respectable Bowlby and his ideas of child development.
* **The behaviourist approach** – J. B Watson famously said, *“Give me a dozen healthy infants, well-formed, and my own specified world to bring them up in and I'll guarantee to take any one at random and train him to become any type of specialist I might select--doctor, lawyer, artist, merchant-chief, and, yes, even beggarman and thief, regardless of his talents, penchants, tendencies, abilities, vocations, and race of his ancestors.”* Do you think this is possible? Are we who we all purely because of our environment? Join the debate!
* **The cognitive approach –** a look at how our brain is ‘wired’ and if things such as memory can be manipulated.
* **The positive approach** – What is the secret to real happiness and we can make this happen? Only Eduqas offers this new approach to study at A Level.

**Component 2: Investigating Behaviour**

This component is all about how psychologists conduct research and builds towards conducting two pieces of your own psychological research.

* **Principles of research -** how psychological investigations are carried out (including social and developmental psychology).
* **Personal investigations -** two investigative activities which change each year
* **Application of research methods to a novel scenario -** Compulsory questions requiring a response to a piece of research.

**Component 3: Implications in the real world:**

This unit focuses on how we apply our psychological understanding to the real world by looking at real life conditions such as schizophrenia and how we can use our knowledge to help find treatments today.

* **Applications-** You will explore addictive behaviours, schizophrenia and criminal behaviours in depth considering a wide range of explanations and treatments.
* **Controversies –** You will consider controversies within Psychology such as cultural bias and the use of animals in research.

**Course delivery:** Lessons are a mixture of discussion, small group work and lecture style learning. Students will be asked to give presentations, research ideas, complete pieces of extended writing and conduct their own research.

**Recommended Resources:**

Flanagan, Cox and Hill Psychology A and AS Level Book 1 and 2 is a fantastic resource for this course.

Any relevant news articles, journals and tweets you come across!

**Entry Requirements:**

5 in Science (Biology) and a 5 in Maths and English (Language or Literature)

**What do our students say?**

“Psychology enriches your understanding of yourself and complex human behaviour”



“The more you learn, the more you want to know” and “You get to understand why you act the way you do and why you make the decisions you do.”