GCSE PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE CONTENT

In year 9, students are introduced to some of the key topics which they will be assessed on at the end of the GCSE course. There is no coursework and all formal assessments take place at the end of the year 11.

The topics studied are memory, perception, developmental psychology, research methods, social psychology, language, thought and communication, brain and neuropsychology and psychological problems

Unit 1: Assessment for Unit 1 is one examination lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes

- **Memory** – Processes including encoding, storage and retrieval, structures of memory and reconstructive memory including eyewitness testimony and explanations for incorrect recall
- **Perception** – The difference between sensation and perception, the influence of visual cues, theories of perception, inferences and factors which influence perception
- **Developmental** – Early brain formation, Piaget's theories of cognitive development and the effect of learning and different learning styles in an educational setting
- **Research Methods** – Hypotheses, variables, sampling methods, research design, correlations, procedures, conducting research, ethical considerations, types of data and descriptive statistics

Unit 2: Assessment for Unit 2 is one examination lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes

- **Social Influence** – Explanations and studies of conformity, obedience, bystander behaviour and crowd and collective behaviour
- **Language, Thought and Communication** – The relationship between language and thought, human and animal communication, explanations of verbal and non-verbal behaviour
- **Brain and neuropsychology** – The structure and function of the nervous system, sensory, relay and motor neurons, analysis of different parts of the brain and brain imaging techniques
- **Psychological problems** – How mental health changes over time, the effects of mental health on individuals and society, characteristics of clinical depression and addiction and treatments

What are the entry requirements?

Predicted levels 5 - 9 in English, Science and Mathematics