

OCR 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. There are two final exams.

The topics studied are criminal psychology, developmental psychology, psychological problems, research methods, social psychology, memory and sleep and dreaming.

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

Criminal Psychology – Explanations for why people commit different types of crimes including analysis of brain structures which might influence their decisions and learned processes. Theories of criminality

📖 Developmental – Early brain formation, Piaget’s theories of cognitive development and the effect of learning and different learning styles in an educational setting

📖 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

📖 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

📖 Memory – Processes including encoding, storage and retrieval, structures of memory and reconstructive memory including eyewitness testimony. Scientific analysis of how damage to different parts of the brain could result in anterograde or retrograde amnesia

Sleep and Dreaming – Biological explanations for the stages of sleep and the sleep/ wake cycle. Evaluation of scientific explanations for dreaming and for sleep disorders such as insomnia

Research Methods – Understanding of how to plan, carry out and analyse data from psychological investigations

What are the entry requirements?

Predicted levels 5 - 9 in English, Science and Mathematics