



Brigidine School Windsor

PSYCHOLOGY

Overview of the Subject

The focus for the AS is on developing a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas of psychology [social, cognitive, developmental, biological and individual differences]. Girls who continue at A2 Level will be offered a range of topic-based options which bring together explanations from different psychological approaches and engage students in issues and debates in psychology.

The Qualification

The GCE in Psychology has 4 units. Units 1 and 2 are studied at AS level. Unit 1 consists of cognitive psychology which includes models of memory and eye witness testimony. You will also learn about memory aids (very useful for revision!) Early social development, attachment and day care are also studied and research methods are examined in the context of the topic areas. Unit 2 includes the topics of stress, conformity and obedience and the definitions, causes and treatments of abnormal behaviour. Units 3 and 4 are studied at A2 Level. Unit 3 allows students to apply their knowledge to such topics as aggression, relationships and gender whilst Unit 4 will compare approaches alongside debates in psychology e.g nature or nurture? Methods will also be re-examined and this will involve some basic statistics.

Prior Knowledge

Prior study in Psychology is not essential but good Maths and English skills are required and a reasonable level of competence in a science subject would be useful.

Skills Acquired During the Course

Students will develop an understanding of the science of mind and behaviour. The ability to apply the core areas of psychology to a variety of real-life issues will develop over the course and students will be encouraged to assess and evaluate psychological theories as well as contribute to classroom debates.

Assessment Procedure

There will be a written examination paper for all units which are equally weighted. Unit 1 and Unit 2 (AS) are structured compulsory questions and include short answer, stimulus material with one 12 mark question requiring extended writing. Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes. At A2, both Units 3 [1.5 hours] and 4 [2 hours] require three essay-style questions.

Career Opportunities

Students may go on to study Psychology at degree level. There are a diverse range of careers such as Clinical Psychology involving the mental health professions. Marketing or advertising are other areas or, alternatively, graduates may go on to specialise in Criminal, Occupational or Educational Psychology.

BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION NO: AS Specification A=1181