



We want King James's students studying psychology to be equipped to use their knowledge of human behaviour in their daily lives. Throughout the curriculum we consider why individuals think, feel and behave the way they do and how life experiences affect people. We introduce important concepts and tools to improve their communication in all types of situation whilst developing strategies and habits that lead towards greater life success. Across the curriculum, students develop excellent research and analytical skills; being exposed to scientific principles in psychology helps students to think, question and reason like a scientist. We want psychology students to consider problems from different perspectives which can be an advantage when confronting life challenges and making decisions. Students also learn the process of acquiring and using memory, as well as techniques to enhance memory abilities. Psychology A Level lays the groundwork for career options, such as Law, Teaching, Counselling, Writing, Human Resources and Research.

The department follow the AQA Psychology specification as the content is clear, relevant and stimulating which makes it transparent to teach and inspire students; it provides an engaging introduction to psychology. As it is a new subject in Year 12, we want students to learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. We have a carefully planned sequence of topics which allows students to develop their psychology knowledge to A Level standard gradually and with confidence. Regular assessments use a variety of questions including multiple choice, short answer and extended writing/essays, which target the skills of knowledge and understanding, application and evaluation. Students' understanding of research methods, gained through classroom experience of practical psychology, are assessed using scenario-based questions and research methods questions embedded in topics. The advantage of this curriculum is students can choose from a range of attractive topic options in Year 13. This ensures that our students experience an interesting, diverse and coherent course of study.

The specification and structure of the exam papers outline some of the parameters of subject content for A Level Psychology, however we have focused on developing the basics in the first year by making the decision to teach a combination of both paper 1 and paper 2 topics in Year 12. This ensures the approaches underpin the whole course and research methods are interspersed throughout all topics. This means students have the origins and basic assumptions of psychology before building on this to study more specific topics. We have broken our curriculum into key topic areas which relate specifically to the exam papers. We use half term planners with opportunities for students and teachers to review progress during each learning cycle to identify areas of strength and development. The sequence of course content aims to develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.

We challenge students by providing further reading opportunities on the curriculum and beyond through our reading list which includes books, films, podcasts and websites. We aim to develop their enthusiasm for the subject by developing their interest in further study and careers associated with the subject. We have high expectations of all our students and use a wide range of review and rapid recall techniques to embed and deepen psychological knowledge. Acting on feedback to improve work is key to success and all students are required to peer mark their work following feedback from teachers and other learners.