



PSYCHOLOGY

IB Diploma Programme

Course Outline

Psychology can be defined as the scientific study of the behaviour, thoughts and feelings of humans and non-human animals. Like all sciences Psychology has the overall aim of improving the world that we live in and experience. Psychology aims to gain understanding of factors that impact on behaviour and will be of benefit to individuals trying to live fulfilling lives, which will be increasingly important in society. It has been a huge growth area in education because people need this knowledge and psychology plays a key role in many careers.

The IB Psychology course aims to develop an awareness of how research findings can be applied to better understand human behaviour and how ethical practices are upheld in psychological inquiry. Students in the first year learn to understand the biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behaviour and explore alternative explanations of behaviour. In the second year students learn to apply this knowledge to two areas of contemporary psychology, including Clinical Psychology and Health Psychology.



Useful skills and experience

All students study the biological, cognitive and sociocultural approaches to Psychology, and at Higher Level course also includes research methods in psychology. The course also includes two second year topics; abnormal psychology and health psychology. Standard Level students only do one of these topics.

The final part of the course is an experimental study; this is an enjoyable and stimulating piece of work which requires the student to choose a topic of interest, develop their aim and materials and then collect data with real participants, which is then discussed and critically analysed, producing a professional report in the style of a psychology journal..



Assessment

External

- Higher Level: 3 written exams (80% of the overall marks).
- Standard Level: 2 written exams (75% of the overall marks).

Internal

- This is the report of the student's experimental study. At Higher Level it is worth 20%, whilst at Standard Level it is worth 25%.



Where could this subject take me?

Studying IB Psychology allows you to develop a wide variety of skills; research, report writing, presentation, essay writing and articulating persuasive arguments. Such skills are valuable in any work context and particularly so in careers which involve working with people.



Exam Board and Specification



Diploma
Programme

IB Group 3



Entry Notes

- Grade 5 in GCSE Core Science. Grade 44 in GCSE Trilogy/Combined Science preferred.
- Complementary L3 Mathematics course strongly recommended.
- SL & HL: 4 in GCSE Psychology if taken.



Complementary Subjects

- Mathematics
- Biology
- Philosophy
- Sociology



Related Additional Activities

- Visiting speakers
- Social Science workshops
- Addiction Conference (Y13)



What our students say

'Psychology has given me the tools to understand certain behaviours and put this academic understanding into practice in the real world.'

