



# Sandwell Academy

## Advanced General Certificate of Education PSYCHOLOGY

### WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the study of mind and behaviour. Due to psychological theories in many practical contexts, testimony and children services. The broad understanding of psychology specialised options as the course recognised university subject and the foundations needed for a career focus and the influences behind it.

The course prepares students for a range of careers including:

Forensic Psychology  
Social Work

Clinical Psychology  
Police

### SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 6 in GCSE English.
- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
- Grade 6,6 overall for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) or a grade 6 overall GCSE Biology (Separate Science).
- If GCSE Psychology taken must have achieved a minimum of a grade 6 (B).

### COURSE DETAILS

AQA syllabus: 7181 / 7182

#### AQA Subject Content for Year 1 Psychology (6 units)

##### 1. Social Influence

This unit will enable you to develop an understanding of how a person's behaviour, opinions and emotions can be influenced or affected by other people. You will look at conformity and how being part of a group can change your behaviour. You will also consider the reasons for obedience, investigating the role of authority figures. Furthermore, you will research why people may resist social influence.

##### 2. Memory

This unit will provide you with the knowledge of how memory works. You will study the different memory stores and the different explanations of how memory works. You will also consider factors which can affect memory and what causes forgetting. You will also study how useful memory can be,

especially in a crime situation and what techniques police use to enhance eye-witness testimony.

### **3. Attachment**

In this unit you will study how bonds between parents and children are formed, involving the role of interaction and play and how these bonds develop and change overtime. You will consider the nature vs nurture debate when discovering the different explanations of attachment, investigating whether attachment is evolutionary or whether it is a result of learning. This unit also investigates how attachment behaviours vary between cultures and you will consider what factors can affect attachment formation and how this may cause issues in adulthood.

### **4. Approaches to Psychology**

This unit will teach you about the difference explanations of behaviour. You will study how behaviour can be explained by many different factors, including learning, our cognitive processes and our biological make-up. This unit will allow you to explore the structure of the brain and how chemical processes influence behaviour as part of Biopsychology.

### **5. Psychopathology**

In this unit you will develop an understanding of maladaptive behaviours and their potential causes. You will investigate the definitions of abnormality and three mental illnesses including OCD, Depression and Phobias. For each mental illness you will consider the explanations and causes as well as the effectiveness of different treatments.

### **6. Research Methods**

This unit will allow you to develop your skills as a researcher. You will discover the different methods psychologists use to investigate human behaviour and develop these skills yourself in a practical scenario.

## Optional Content

Option 1	Relationships Gender Cognition and development
Option 2	Schizophrenia Eating Behaviour Stress
Option 3	Aggression Forensic Addiction

In A Level Psychology you will build upon your Year 1 studies. You will learn new content for Approaches, where 2 new approaches of psychology will be considered and Biopsychology becomes a separate unit from Approaches. In the Biopsychology unit you will build on the biopsychology studies you investigate as part of Approaches and will explore how genes, neural structure and chemicals can influence behaviour. More content will be added to the Research Methods unit, where you will practice how to use statistical

