

# Mayflower High School

## WHAT WILL I STUDY AT A LEVEL?

### Unit 1 – Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence:** Explanations and factors which might affect conformity and obedience.
- Memory:** Models of memory and theories of forgetting. Factors that affect the accuracy of eye-witness testimony and ways in which this could be improved.
- Attachment:** Explanations and types of attachment, effects of institutionalisation and the influence of early attachment on child and adult relationships.
- Psychopathology:** Symptoms, explanations and treatments for phobias, depression and OCD.

### Unit 2 – Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology:** Outline key approaches in psychology such as, behaviourist, psychodynamic, biological, humanist and cognitive approaches.
- Biopsychology:** nervous system, endocrine system, brain localisation and hemispheric lateralisation, influence of biological rhythms such as circadian, infradian and ultradian on behaviour, ways of studying the brain e.g. brain scans and post-mortem examinations.
- Research Methods:** using experimental and non-experimental methods, ethics in psychology, role of peer review, reporting psychological investigations and analysing results using descriptive and inferential statistics.

### Unit 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology

- Relationships:** evolutionary explanations for partner preference, factors affecting attraction, theories of romantic relationships, virtual relationships in social media.
- Forensic Psychology:** offender profiling, biological and psychological explanations of offending behaviour, dealing with offending behaviour.
- Schizophrenia:** classification of schizophrenia, biological and psychological explanations of schizophrenia, biological and psychological treatments of schizophrenia.

## WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES AFTER A LEVEL?

Students can go on to study for a degree in Psychology at university, which can be useful for a number of careers, including Marketing and PR, Human Resources and Education. Additionally, graduates can train to become Chartered Psychologists, specialising in counselling, forensics, education and sport, amongst other disciplines. An A Level in Psychology is useful for any courses or careers concerned with dealing with people.

## WHAT ARE THE COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

CAPS 5 plus a grade 55 in Double Science

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