Southend High School for Girls
Sixth FORM

Course outline

Head of subject:
Mrs Fellowes

Minimum entry requirements:
Grade 6 GCSE English Literature or English Language, Grade 6 GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Biology or 6-6 in Combined Science. GCSE Psychology is not required to take the A Level.

Psychology

What will you study in Year 12?

- Introductory topics in psychology; social influence, memory, attachment, clinical psychology and mental health.
- Psychology in context: approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods.

What will you study in Year 13?

- Issues and options in psychology: schizophrenia, relationships, aggression, and research methods.
- Contemporary issues and debates in psychology; the nature/nurture debate, ethical implications, gender bias, culture bias, holism versus reductionism, idiographic versus nomothetic approach and free will versus determinism.

How will you be assessed during the course?

- Mid topic and end of topic assessments, class discussion, home learning and an end of Year internal examination.

External assessments – 3 Papers at the end of year 13, each of a duration of 2 hours.

- Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology
- Paper 2 Psychology in Context
- Paper 3 Issues and Options
- Questions include multiple choice, short answer questions and extended writing.

Where could this course lead?

– Psychology is seen as a relevant qualification for a wide range of degrees and is accepted as a science subject by many universities. Psychology develops the following academic skills which are useful in range of degree courses; the ability to assess the validity and reliability of data and research, designing and planning research using the scientific method, sound research skills and essay writing as well as critical thinking skills.

– There are also a variety of careers in within psychology, for example, Forensic Psychology, working with the prison system and rehabilitation, Clinical Psychology working within the NHS and Educational psychology working within and education to support students with special educational needs. There are also a range of psychology related degree apprenticeships available, such as in Mental Health Nursing.

Further information

– Exam board – AQA https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/a-level/psychology-7182

– Super-curricular activities include writing for the Social Science magazine, the Social Science debate club, entering national essay writing competitions, attending psychology summer school, attending lunch time online lectures from guest speakers and visits to local and national psychology lectures.

– Trips vary from year to year, but we have visited the Science Museum, the Freud Museum, Colchester Zoo, the British Psychological Society's annual conference and other conference in London such as Psychology in Action.

– We provide extensive personalised 1:1 support.