

PSYCHOLOGY KEY QUESTIONS SHEET

Question: What are some of the key topics I would cover?

Answer: In year 1 we cover the following topics: Memory, Social Influence, Attachment, Research Methods, Approaches and Psychopathology

In year 2, topics include: Issues and Debates, Biopsychology, Cognition & Development, Forensic Psychology, Schizophrenia and a little more Research Methods.

Question: How many other subjects can I choose alongside this one?

Answer: Most students will study two other subjects alongside psychology. It can be combined with any subjects and is a useful addition to your programme for a number of different career paths.

Question: What is the learning style like within this subject?

Answer: We use a flipped learning approach. Before a topic is taught, students are expected to read around and make notes on the topic. They then bring this to the lesson where we help them make sense of the material, apply it in context and evaluate it. Students are expected to carry out significant independent study – both in preparation for lessons but also in consolidating learning after lessons. We use a combination of teacher directed learning, practical activities, discussions, directed questioning and group work.

Question: How will I be assessed?

Answer: Students sit short (24 mark / 30 minute assessments) every 2-3 weeks in year 1 and every 2 weeks in year 2. These are marked formally and detailed feedback provided. Students also sit a few longer internal examinations.

INTERNAL EXAMS:

- Year 1 – sit a mock exam after Christmas and then a transfer exam in the summer term
- Year 2 – sit a mock exam after Christmas, another after February half term and their final mock after Easter.

EXTERNAL EXAMS:

- External examinations are taken at the end of year 2 and there are 3 exam papers:
 - Paper 1 – Introductory topics in psychology
 - Paper 2 – Psychology in context
 - Paper 3 – Issues and options in psychology

Question: What support can I access if I am struggling?

Answer: We offer regular workshops that students can drop into and receive help with any aspect of the content. We also encourage all students to work with a peer and to meet regularly to complete practice questions, test each others' knowledge and develop good revision strategies. Students also have easy access to a wide range of helpful resources via the Psychology SharePoint site. Of course students can also approach their teacher for further guidance with any aspect of their studies.

Question: Are there any subject specific entry requirements?

Answer: Yes, please refer to the prospectus [here](#) for general and subject specific entry requirements

Question: Is there any enrichment offered on the course to develop student understanding?

Answer: We have previously had psychologists come into college to discuss their current careers with students. This usually happens at the end of Y1 during a Science Careers day. The day is aimed at providing students with information about taking psychology beyond college and future related careers.

For the last 2 years we have held an interactive brain day which involves students learning about current research involving the brain and the opportunity to see a live brain dissection!

Question: What do students who have studied this area normally do after Collyer's?

Answer: Psychology is an exceptionally useful and versatile A level, because of the skills developed in it as much as due to the knowledge itself. It can be a helpful A level for a range of undergraduate courses as the vast majority of universities recognise it as a science subject and it is valued highly. Students wishing to go on to study medicine, nursing, social work, law, criminology, business, economics, marketing, PR, politics and a wide range of other courses may find psychology to be a very useful A level. Of course, a number of our students do go on to study psychology, in one of its' many forms, at university. This can prepare them well for studies in a range of fields within psychology including: cognitive, health, clinical, educational, forensic, occupational and neuropsychology. Of course the skills learned in this challenging and fascinating A level will also prepare them well for the world of work – particularly in customer facing roles.