

IB Psychology



Introduction:

IB Psychology explores human behaviour and mental processes through scientific research and analysis. The course delves into topics such as biological, cognitive, and sociocultural influences on behaviour by studying key theories and real-world applications. You'll learn to conduct your own research, developing skills in critical thinking, data analysis, and ethical inquiry. The subject also encourages reflection on individual and group behaviours, aiming to understand how psychological knowledge can improve mental health and social well-being. By connecting theory to everyday life, IB Psychology prepares you for further studies in psychology and other fields that require a deep understanding of human behaviour.

Course structure:

The course is structured into three parts:

- **Core Content:** This looks at the biological, cognitive and sociocultural approach to understanding behaviour as well as approaches to researching behaviour.
- **Psychology Options:** The options covered using applications from core content include abnormal psychology, with a focus on treatments; and human relationships, with a focus on the formation of relationships, communication and why relationships change or end.
- **Internal Assessment:** This is where students are given the opportunity to carry out their own psychology study, using their knowledge of psychological research.

Entry requirements:

To be admitted onto this course you will need to meet the following requirements:

- Grade 5+ in both GCSE English Language and/or Literature.
- Grade 5+ in GCSE Science or GCSE Biology.

Careers:

This course can lead to a wide range of careers that value analytical thinking and research skills such as:

- Psychology – such as clinical, educational or sport
- Counselling and therapy
- Human resources
- Social work
- Market research analysis
- Teaching or educational consultancy
- Forensic psychology

The subject will also support access to a wide variety of employment, apprenticeships and higher education options.

Assessment:

Internal assessment (20%):

- Completion of students own psychological study.

External assessment (80%):

- **Paper 1, 2 hours: Core Content (40%)**
 - **Section A:** Three compulsory 9 mark questions.
 - **Section B:** One 22 mark question on cognitive approaches.
- **Paper 2, 2 hours: Options (20%)**
 - Two 22 mark questions on the option topics.
- **Paper 3, 1 hour: Research Methods (20%)**
 - Three short answer questions.