



carmel
college

Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.

PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE GUIDE 2017

“The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind.”

WILLIAM JAMES

Psychology

Exam Board AQA

What will I study?

Our A Level offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. You will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by universities and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Some of the topics you will study include Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Research Methods, the Approaches in Psychology, Biological Psychology, Abnormal Psychology such as Phobias, Depression and OCD and additional options such as Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology. These topics have practical applications, for example, demonstrating how to organise your notes more effectively will help you with revision. Many of our students who have progressed on to a career in medicine have found the Abnormal Psychology invaluable to their training and the study of Forensic Psychology for those thinking of a career in Law.

As Psychology is classed as a science, there is a significant amount of Biology in the course and therefore you should have a strong science background. Mathematical ability needs to be higher than GCSE grade 4 so that you can apply your mathematical knowledge at a level needed to fully support scientific knowledge, understanding and problem solving.

How will I be assessed?

Your exams employ a variety of familiar types of question such as multiple choice, short answer and extended essays, which target the skills of knowledge and understanding, application and evaluation.

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

Written exam: 2 hours

Paper 2: Psychology in context

Written exam: 2 hours

Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology

Written exam: 2 hours

All examinations will be in June of your Upper 6th year.

Where does this course lead?

An A Level in Psychology can take you anywhere. It is one of the most transferable subjects you can study providing you with a variety of skills. Over a quarter of our students progress on to Psychology degrees with the intention of becoming psychologists. We also have students who have progressed on to careers in medicine, vet science and a range of health professions, dentistry, law, teaching, business, sport and the media to name but a few.

What support will I receive?

A range of support is available to you within the department. You can have one-to-one tutorials with any member of the department whenever you need them, as many as you like. There are group tutorials prior to an exam. We have AQA examiners teaching in the department who can guide and support you on any of the papers. You will experience a variety of teaching and learning styles and receive high quality resources, which are tailored to the needs of all students.

You will be assessed regularly against the exam criteria and offered constructive feedback identifying what you are doing well and areas where you could still improve. You will have regular meetings with your tutors to discuss your progress and action plan for continuous improvement.

Our students say...

The friendly atmosphere and huge support network at Carmel make it a great place to study.

I had never studied Psychology before coming to Carmel, but now it's my favourite subject. The tutors are always prepared to offer extra guidance, using 'Stretch and Challenge' activities to push your knowledge further and help you to achieve high grades. Psychology also provides you with many transferable skills, like thoughtful analysis and essay writing, which make it a really useful course to study no matter what you go on to do after Carmel. The lessons are always enjoyable, and it is especially interesting to get a deep insight into human behaviour and understand why people act in the way that they do. I'm particularly interested in Biological Psychology, learning about how the brain and genes control behaviour. After college I would like to continue to study Psychology and Biology at university.



Jessica Pepper

De La Salle

Studying:

Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Philosophy & Religion, Critical Thinking

Psychology students visit Cambridge



What is the department like?

The department has over 300 students and 3 full time members of staff. Psychology students study in the West Park building which provides a modern and spacious, state-of-the art learning environment. Our department's facilities include a suite of well resourced teaching bases equipped with interactive white boards, multi-media projectors and wireless internet connection. We use these resources to maximum effect to support your learning. Students also have access to a computer suite and study areas.

What else will I do?



PsychSoc Enrichment

You will benefit from guest speakers and practitioners visiting the college, such as consultant psychologists, who will lead workshops and lectures. We also attend specialist lectures organised by the exam board and you will also be given the opportunity to go on trips and visits. As part of the Enrichment Programme, the Psychology department offers PsychSoc for those thinking about studying Psychology at university.

Former Carmel student, Dr Shelly Morris-King

Shelly came to Carmel from St Hilda's High School and studied A Level Psychology as one of her four subjects. She left Carmel to read for a Psychology degree at York University. After graduating she chose to do a Masters Degree in Health Evaluation at Liverpool John Moores University followed by a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Leeds University. Shelly has worked as a Chartered Clinical Psychologist at a high security hospital in the North West.



// I worked predominantly with patients with a history of violence and aggression, and supervised a group therapy programme. I also do the odd psychology lecture at different universities and have especially enjoyed returning to Carmel recently to teach psychology students.

It's great to see how much Carmel has developed since I was here. Going to Carmel was an amazing experience for me, and I'm sure that I wouldn't be where I am now without the support and encouragement I was given by the tutors there.

I didn't just get my A Levels at Carmel; I really grew up there, learnt a lot about myself, made some great friends and really decided what it was I wanted to do with my life. **//**

Shelly completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Neuropsychology at Glasgow University and became Principal Neuropsychologist at the Brain Injury Unit, Mossley Hill Hospital. She is now working as a Consultant Psychologist at the Walton Centre.

Our students say...

During my time at Carmel, I have really enjoyed how friendly all the other students are and how easily I made friends.

I enjoy studying Psychology because I have always had a genuine interest in the subject. We get to take part in real studies, which are always fun, along with the 'Stretch and Challenge' work which gives you a real insight into the impact psychology has in the world today. Furthermore we have discussions about current debates that are affecting this subject, allowing us to voice our own opinions and views. The support is great at Carmel. If you don't understand a topic there are always tutorials available to help along with drop in sessions. After I leave Carmel I am going to Leeds University to study for a BSc in Psychology.



John Mousley

Broadgreen International College

Studying:

Psychology, Biology, Mathematics

Psychology staff team



Our students say...

What I like most about studying at Carmel is the support provided by all of the staff and the excellent resources that are available to me.

I particularly enjoy studying Psychology as we cover a wide range of interesting topics, including Forensic Psychology which has been my favourite so far. Through studying Psychology I have had the opportunity to take part in a number of Enrichment activities, including a trip to Cambridge University and being part of a team that created a magazine based on our own research. What has impressed me most about Carmel is the welcoming atmosphere that made the transition between high school and college an easy one and the consistent level of support available to all students. When I leave Carmel I wish to continue studying Psychology at university in the hope of becoming a chartered psychologist in the future.



Charlotte Clarke
St Gregory's

Studying:

Psychology, Law, Spanish



Stretch and Challenge

Within the department we offer:

- Activities targeted to all Gifted and Talented students
- Support with UCAS applications including Oxbridge applications and interview practice
- Stretch and Challenge tutorials to help achieve an A*
- Support tailored to students of all ability levels

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to have studied Psychology before I start my course at Carmel?

No, we assume that our students have never studied the subject before and start with the basics.

Why do I need a grade 5 in Maths and English Language?

This is a recommendation from the exam board. The subject is academically rigorous and requires a high level of written, oral and numerical skills. It is not about reading people's minds.

What can I do with an A Level in Psychology?

Psychology is an excellent subject, which will provide you with many transferable skills, which will give you numerous career options.

How successful are our Psychology students?

		No of Entries	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
2016	A2	95	35%	62%	97%



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Meet the Tutors

Carole Williams
Head of Psychology &
Head of Extended Project

Karen Sheridan
Sarah Cockayne
Laura Phillips

What are the entry requirements for this course?

You will need **GCSE grade 5** in both **Maths** and **English Language**.

More Information

For general information visit the British Psychological Society: www.bps.org.uk
For specific information from the exam board go to: www.aqa.org.uk
For a glance at the kind of things you are likely to study: www.s-cool.co.uk