

# PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE GUIDE 2018

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

WILLIAM JAMES



# Psychology

Linear A Level  
Exam Board AQA

## Psychology students visit Cambridge



## OUR STUDENTS SAY...

*I really enjoy Carmel as there is always a friendly atmosphere around college. I particularly enjoy studying Psychology as the tutors are so supportive.*

They always have a positive and optimistic attitude which helps me to feel comfortable and at ease in lessons. This not only makes it easier to ask for help, but also makes the classroom environment a nice place to learn. I'd definitely recommend studying Psychology because it's really interesting to learn about the mind and our behaviour. You also get to physically go out and do your own research for certain modules. After I leave Carmel, I'm hoping to study Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology at the University of Manchester. Psychology at Carmel has definitely provided me with the skills and confidence that will help me to achieve my goals and reach my potential, not only for life after Carmel, but for the rest of my life.

**Sarah Golding** St Edmund Arrowsmith, Whiston  
Studying: Psychology, Biology, Chemistry



### 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...

*I really enjoy studying at Carmel College for many reasons. There is always a friendly and positive atmosphere around campus which really helps with my studies.*

I particularly enjoy studying Psychology as the tutors are so supportive. They always have a positive and optimistic attitude which helps me to feel comfortable and at ease in lessons.

I'd definitely recommend studying Psychology because it's really interesting to learn about the mind and our behaviour. You also get to physically go out and do your own research for certain modules, which has provided me with skills that will benefit me for university.

Psychology at Carmel has definitely provided me with the skills and confidence that will help me to achieve my goals and reach my potential, not only for life after Carmel, but for the rest of my life.

**Sam Roberts** St Edmund Arrowsmith, Whiston  
Studying: Psychology, Biology, Chemistry



### Psychology staff team



### What is the department like?

The department has just under 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?

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.



PsychSoc Enrichment

## 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...

*I have enjoyed studying Psychology at Carmel, as it is a very interesting subject and the lessons are always engaging.*

Psychology covers a range of topics from learning about explanations of behaviour to functions of the brain. It is a really enjoyable course and the Psychology department at Carmel is really supportive. Studying here has allowed me to work more independently as well as having support there if I need it. Taking Psychology will provide you with many transferable skills and will broaden your options if you choose not to take the subject further. After Carmel I hope to attend university to continue with Psychology.

**Ellie Quigley** The Belvedere Academy  
Studying - Psychology, Core Maths,  
History, Sociology



## Stretch and Challenge

Within the department we offer:

- Activities targeted to all high achieving 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

What are the entry requirements for this course?

**GCSE grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics.**

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 6 in Maths or 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.

## How successful are our Psychology students?

We are incredibly proud of the excellent grades achieved by our Psychology students. In 2017, out of the 125 students who sat the exam at the end of the new two year linear course, there was an overall pass rate of 98% and 55% achieved A\*-C grades. Many of these students have now gone on to further their studies in Psychology at university.



### Meet the Tutors

**Carole Williams**  
Head of Psychology &  
Head of Extended Project

**Karen Sheridan**  
**Sarah Cockayne**  
**Beckie Hardie**

### More Information

For general information visit the British Psychological Society:

**[www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)**

For specific information from the exam board go to:

**[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)**

For a glance at the kind of things you are likely to study:

**[www.s-cool.co.uk](http://www.s-cool.co.uk)**



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