THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Have you ever wondered why some people are frightened of snakes and other people think they are cuddly? Why do some people suffer from stress and mental illness and others don't? Are you interested in finding out what makes people 'tick'? If so, then Psychology is the subject for you. It is a science with cutting edge research that has real-world application to everyday issues in life.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

An interest in, and curiosity about, human behaviour.
Good pass in subjects at GCSE or equivalent.
IELTS 5.5 or equivalent.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1	Year 2
Core component 1 – Social Influence	**Core component 6** – Biopsychology
Core component 2 – Memory	**Core component 7** – Research Methods
Core component 3 – Attachment	**Core component 8** – Issues and debates in Psychology

Core component 4 – Psychopathology	**Optional component 1** – Relationships
Core component 5 – Approaches in Psychology	**Optional component 2** – Schizophrenia
Core component 7 – Research Methods	**Optional component 3** – Aggression

ASSESSMENT

Formal internal assessments take place once every half term and homework is set on a regular basis.
Grades are determined by three examined modules. Final examinations take place in May/June at the end of the 2-year course.
An end of year exam must be passed for entry to year 2 and a mock exam must be passed for entry into the public exams.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
1. Core components 1-4. Introductory topics in Psychology	96 marks 2 hours written paper	33.3% of A level
2. Core components 5-7. Psychology in Context	96 marks 2 hours written paper	33.3% of A level
3. Core component 8 and Optional components 1-3. Issues and options in Psychology	96 marks 2 hours written paper	33.3% of A level

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TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
Psychology A Level Year 1 and AS: The Complete Companion Student Book for AQA	978-1036011970	Mike Cardwell and Cara Flanagan
Psychology A Level Year 2: The Complete Companion Student Book for AQA	978-1036011987	Mike Cardwell and Cara Flanagan

Summaries of each unit, your notes and past examination papers will be your major source of revision. There are revision guides available for both AS and A2.

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Psychology will enhance your skills in analysis and evaluation, essay writing and presentation work, and application of knowledge to current events, which are highly valued by universities and employers. Psychology is popular with students who wish to study Sociology, Criminology, and Behavioural Sciences at university and/or enter careers in Clinical Psychology and counselling, Marketing, Forensic Psychology, or Experimental Psychology. Previous sociology students have gained acceptance in undergraduate courses in Psychology, Business, Finance at prestigious Russell group universities.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

History; Sociology.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Mr Dims Ashton