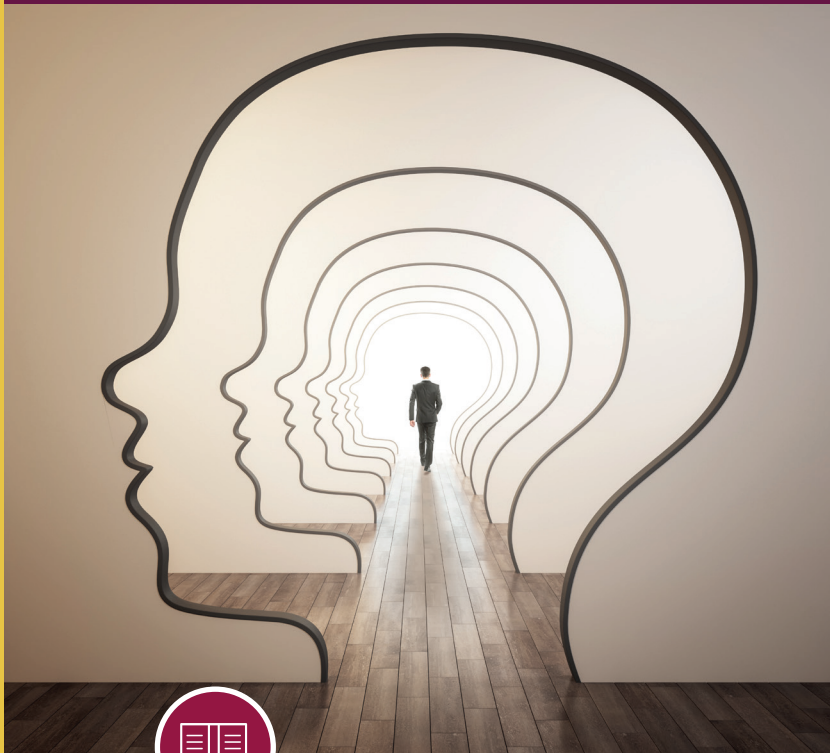


Psychology

Psychology is a scientific attempt to understand human (and animal) behaviour by measuring quantitatively and assessing reliability of evidence by statistically eliminating the effects of coincidence.



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The advent of physical methodology with reference to measurements of brain activity in recent years has made psychology an increasingly important tool in recognising how societies arise and develop.

Content Overview:

L6th Year

In L6th, candidates will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas of psychology (social, cognitive, developmental, biological and individual differences) through a range of topics chosen for their accessibility and popularity.

There are six sections.

1. Social influence: Including investigations into conformity and obedience.
2. Memory: Including models of memory, the use of eyewitness testimony and memory improvement.
3. Attachment: Including formation of attachments, deprivation of attachments and the effects of institutionalization.
4. Approaches in Psychology: Including Behavioural, cognitive, biological, humanistic and psychodynamic Psychology.
5. Clinical Psychology and Mental Health: Including mental well-being, phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD).
6. Research methods: Including experimental design, statistics and data presentation and analysis.

The students' ability to analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in Design and Technology will also be assessed.

U6th Year

At A2, the specification offers a range of topic-based options which bring together explanations from different psychological approaches and engage students in issues and debates in psychology.

Optional topics in Psychology:

Option 1:

1. Relationships: Including evolutionary preferences, virtual relationships and para-social relationships.
2. Gender: Including gender stereotypes, the role of hormones and the influence of media on gender.
3. Cognition and Development: Including Piaget and Vygotsky's theories of social development.

Option 2:

4. Schizophrenia: Including diagnosis, classification and treatment of schizophrenia.
5. Eating Behaviour: Including food preferences, media influence, cultural influence and evolutionary effects.
6. Stress: Including causes of stress, effects of stress and stress management.

Option 3:

7. Aggression: Including neural and hormonal mechanisms, ethological and social explanations of aggression, institutional and media influences.
8. Forensic Psychology: Including offender profiling, biological and psychological explanations and dealing with offending behaviour.
9. Addiction: Including describing addiction, risk factors, explaining nicotine and gambling addiction, reducing addiction and theories of behaviour change.