

SUBJECT: PSYCHOLOGY IB HIGHER

**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:
MR A D SUTHERLAND**

**HEAD OF SUBJECT:
MISS M HUSSEIN**

SYLLABUS NUMBER:

N/A

SYNOPSIS OF CONTENT

One of the goals of the IB Psychology course is to provide students with an opportunity to acquire a better understanding of how the human mind works and how this affects behaviour. Students will be looking at classic and modern research conducted in the field of psychology. They will explore experimental design, methodology and ethics. Students will be asked to understand, evaluate, and even design and carry out their own research studies. In doing this, students will learn what constitutes effective and ethical psychological research.

Paper 1:

- The biological level of analysis
- The cognitive level of analysis
- The sociocultural level of analysis

Paper 2:

- Abnormal psychology
- Developmental psychology
- Health psychology
- Psychology of human relationships
- Sport psychology

Paper 2 involves a choice of two optional topics selected by teaching staff.

Paper 3: Qualitative research methodology

Coursework: A report of a simple experimental study conducted by the student. Introduction to experimental research methodology.

SKILLS THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

- Knowledge and understanding of key terms, concepts, research methods, theories and research studies
- Evaluating psychological theories and empirical studies
- Discussing how biological, cognitive and sociocultural levels of analysis can be used to explain behaviour
- Evaluating research methods used to investigate behaviour
- Demonstrating acquisition of knowledge and skills required for experimental design, data collection and presentation, data analysis and interpretation
- Analysing qualitative psychological research in terms of methodological, reflexive and ethical issues involved in research
- Analysing data using an appropriate inferential statistical test
- Independent learning
- Essay writing

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES

There are far too many useful websites to list here. Use Google and learn to recognise the useful sites in the listings amid the rest. Look for the domain endings 'ac.uk' or 'edu' for academic sites.

www.bps.org.uk

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 (2 hours)

Section A: Three compulsory questions on part 1 of the syllabus.

Section B: Students choose one question from three on part 1 of the syllabus to answer in essay form. 35%

Paper 2 (2 hour)

Fifteen questions. Students choose two question to answer in essay form. 25%

Paper 3 (1 hour)

Three compulsory questions based on an unseen text. 20%

Coursework: A report of a simple experimental study conducted by the student. 20%

SPECIFIC MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the Sixth Form matriculation requirements, students must have at least one GCSE grade B or above in a Humanities subject, a grade B or above in a Science and grade 5 or above in Mathematics.

OTHER INFORMATION

Eg Field Trips/expenses/books

Psychology 4 Students conference in London.

No specific expenses. However, it is helpful to read more widely making your own use of libraries / bookshops. Use of public libraries is essential in coursework.