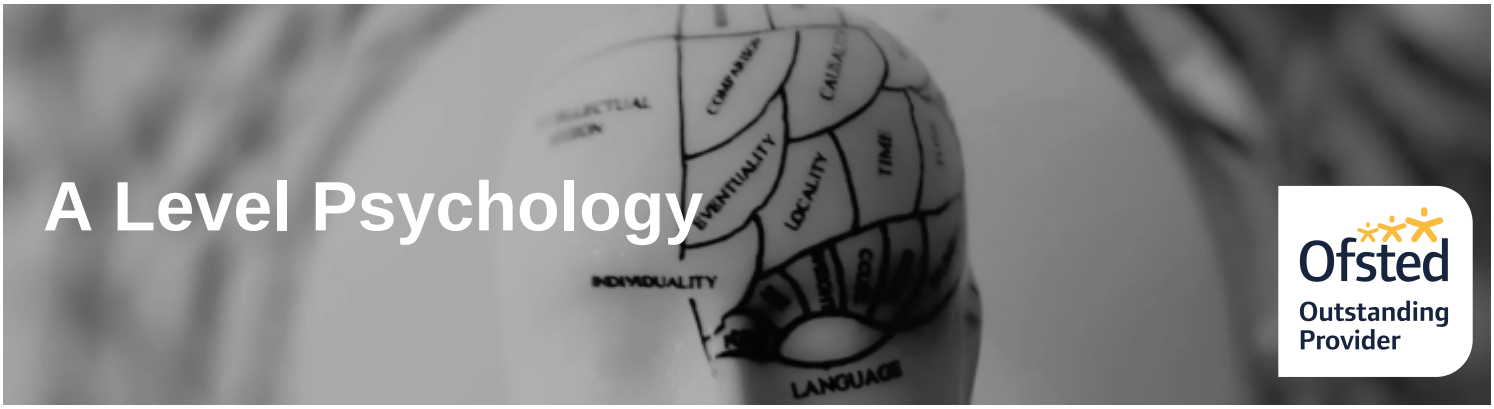

A Level Psychology

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Course Level: Level 3 | **Campus: Leek** | **Subject Type: Humanities & Social Sciences**

Course Overview:

Unlock the mysteries of human behaviour with our A Level Psychology course. This comprehensive program introduces students to key concepts in psychology, such as learning, development, and social influence. By examining psychological theories and conducting experiments, students gain a deeper understanding of the mind.

New for 2027/28

What's Covered:

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour, in particular how and why people behave in certain ways. A successful Psychology student has an appetite for understanding how scientific principles can be applied to human behaviour so if you're interested in people and inquisitive about their behaviour, this is the subject for you.

You will study a number of different topics related to everyday behaviour from a variety of viewpoints including biological, evolutionary and psychological approaches. You will learn how not only genes and biochemical process influence your behaviour, but also parents and culture.

Alongside psychological concepts and theories you will develop desirable transferable skills such as communication, team working and relationship building, whilst gaining deeper understanding in data collection, statistical analysis and report writing. The course includes a wide variety of learning experiences such as lectures, one to one tutorials, practical work, group work, discussions/debates and personal research when preparing for assessment.

Entry Requirements:

You will need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 5 or above including maths and English Language, in subjects relevant to your A Level subject choices. You will also need an average point score of 5 in science.

Assessment Information:

Assessment is comprised of three examinations at the end of two years' study. Progression to year two will be dependant on successful completion of the first year taking into account Internal Progression Examination results and the Key Assessment Profile throughout the first year.

Paper 1: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology

You will learn about issues such as why people conform or give in to group pressure. You will also look at why humans obey orders, even those that will inflict harm on others. This unit considers how memory works, why we forget certain things and whether eye witness accounts of crimes can be trusted. Human attachment is also investigated including the reasons why we attach to our parent or caregiver. Lastly you will look at what is abnormal behaviour, what causes it and how is it treated?

Paper 2 : Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods

In this unit you will learn about different psychologists' views on human behaviour, their arguments and debates. Biopsychology considers the role our biology plays in influencing our behaviour. You will consider how the brain transmits messages and how we study the brain in a

scientific way.

You will also look at the body's natural biological rhythms and their effect on our lives, and learn how to investigate human behaviour in a scientific way. Half of this paper is research methods e.g., statistics & experimental designs.

Paper 3 : Cognition & Development, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology, Issues and Debates

In Cognition, you will consider how children develop intellectually. You will consider the symptoms and types of schizophrenia, its cause and possible treatments. In forensic psychology you will consider different approaches to offender profiling and offender behaviour including theories as to how to deal with offender behaviour. Issues and debates are also considered, for example, is our gender biologically created or environmentally made.

Fees and Financial Support:

This course is free for anyone aged 16 – 18.

College Maintenance Allowance (CMA):

Anyone with a gross household income under £35,000 can receive financial support to cover college related costs such as transport, meals, course equipment and uniform. Bursary support is based on individual circumstances and will be allocated to best suit your individual needs. A range of other financial support is available depending on your personal circumstances. For more details visit nscg.ac.uk/finance

Progression:

Studying Psychology provides an excellent general qualification for many careers and you will be able to use it to progress to Higher Education. Universities recognise the research skills and the understanding of human behaviour that a psychology qualification brings. Psychology forms part of a large number of degree courses including social work, teaching, criminal justice, business studies, medicine and many more and can also be classed as a fourth science for those wishing to study medicine, dentistry and veterinary science.

There are a wide range of undergraduate degrees available in Psychology both locally and further afield. Both Staffordshire and Keele University offer lots of different psychology degree courses. It can also be combined with many other subjects, for example Criminology and Health. The sorts of jobs psychology graduates go on to do are wide ranging including teaching, social work, work within the National Health Service, counselling and many more.

How do I find out more?

If you wish to find out more, email info.leek@nscg.ac.uk