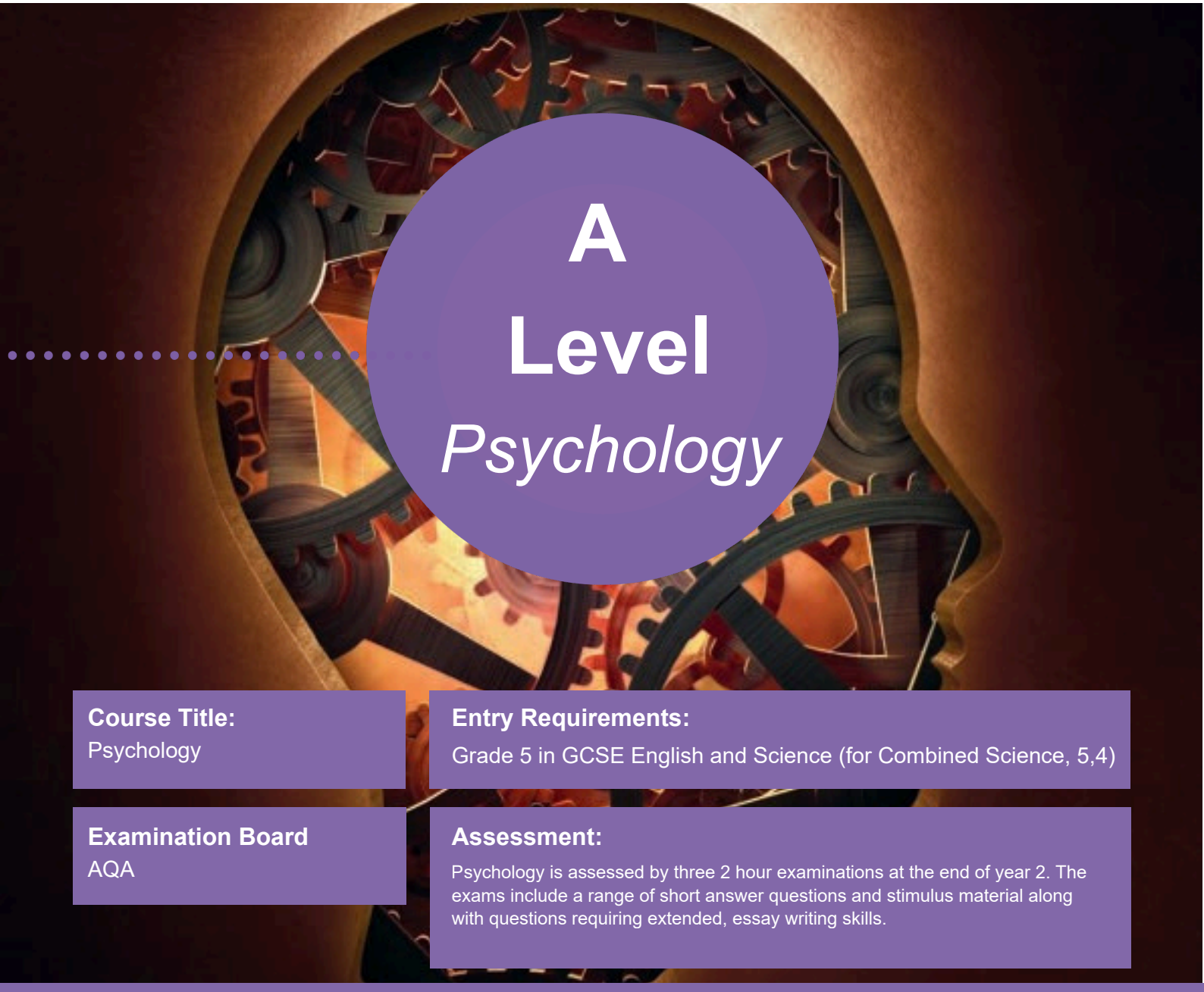
Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form
KS5 Curriculum



A Level
Psychology

Course Title:
Psychology

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE English and Science (for Combined Science, 5,4)

Examination Board
AQA

Assessment:
Psychology is assessed by three 2 hour examinations at the end of year 2. The exams include a range of short answer questions and stimulus material along with questions requiring extended, essay writing skills.

Is this course right for me?

Firstly, you need to be interested in people. You should be willing to participate, to share your ideas and interpretations and to listen to others. As the course involves a great deal of written work (essays, reports and lots of note-taking), the ability to write coherently and accurately is a vital skills to develop. You will need to be willing to put in effort and commitment as Psychology is a very demanding A Level!

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Unit Contents:

PAPER 1 (2 hrs, 33.3%)
Memory
Including models of memory, explanations for forgetting, and the accuracy of eyewitness testimony.
Attachment
Including early social development, cultural variations and explanations of attachment, and the effects of deprivation on later relationships.
Social Influence
Including conformity, obedience to authority and independent behaviour.
Psychopathology
Including definitions of abnormality, characteristics of phobias, depression and OCD, and approaches to explaining abnormality and therapies.

PAPER 2 (2 hrs, 33.3%)
Approaches to Psychology
Including psychodynamic, cognitive, behaviourist, evolutionary and biological approaches to studying behaviour.
Biopsychology
Including the divisions of the nervous system, the structure and function of neurons and of the endocrine system, and the role of adrenaline.
Research Methods
Understanding the research procedures used in psychological research (design, procedure, analysis of results, evaluation).

PAPER 3 (2 hrs, 33.3%)
Issues and debates
Including cultural and gender issues, the nature/nurture debate, and debate between determinism and free will.
Option 1 [one topic from]
Relationships, Gender or Cognition and development
Option 2 [one topic from]
Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour or Stress
Option 3 [one topic from]
Aggression, Forensic psychology or Addiction



Progression:

The great thing about Psychology is that it doesn't close any doors. An A Level in Psychology can be the first step into a career in Psychology such as clinical, forensic, educational, occupational, sports, health or environmental psychology, as well as teaching or research. Psychology is a highly regarded qualification by higher education institutions and employers alike; especially in fields that are'people-oriented' – such as marketing, HR, policing, teaching, PR, nursing, counselling… the list goes on!

Examples of university courses and grades required:

- **University of Bath:** Bsc (Hons) Psychology:A*AA.
- **University of Kent:** Bsc (Hons): Applied psychology with placement (4 yrs): AAA.
- **Goldsmiths, University of London:** Bsc (Hons) Clinical Psychology: AAB-ABB.
- **University of Northampton:** Bsc (Hons) Developmental and Educational Psychology: BBC.
- **Manchester Metropolitan University:** Bsc (Hons) Forensic Psychology: BBB-BBC.



Further Information Contact:
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