

Name of course: GCSE Psychology
Examination board: OCR
Teacher: Miss M O'Connor and Mrs L Sullivan
Subject Leader email: n.hawtin@decschool.co.uk



How the course is assessed:

The course is assessed solely through examination with two examinations at the end of Year 11, both weighted at 50%. Each examination lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes and is a combination of short and medium tariff questions, with an extended essay question.

Outline of course:

The GCSE Psychology course covers a range of topics and acts as an exciting introduction to Psychology. Pupils will study topics such as criminal psychology, the psychology of memory, psychological problems such as schizophrenia and clinical depression, neuropsychology, social influence, human cognitive development, sleep and dreaming in addition to research methods (study of the scientific method within psychology). Key pieces of research within these areas will be studied and critiqued in addition to core theories within these fields.

Pupils will develop skills of analysis, evaluation, essay writing and data handling, and will be expected to apply some areas of mathematics to the study of research methods.

Potential career pathways that could lead on from this course:

Psychology is a scientific subject in which pupils develop key skills such as analysis, language and data handling that are applicable in almost any chosen pathway; it is a sought after subject because of this. Psychology at GCSE level prepares pupils well for study at A-level, and for pathways in education, business, advertising & marketing, health care, and social work.

Some pupils may choose to pursue:

- A career within psychology working in the field of research
- Education
- Mental health
- Sport psychology
- Forensic (criminal) psychology

