

Tavistock College Sixth Form

When you sign up for a subject please note that you will be expected to study that subject for the whole two years. There will be a formal assessment in the Autumn term, after four weeks and that is the only time when students will be allowed to swap or change subjects. After this, too much will have been missed.

Subject: Psychology	
Entry criteria: At least C or above in English, Maths and Science	
Topics covered: Topics covered in the first year include: Memory (models of memory, forgetting, eyewitness testimony) Social Influence (conformity and factors affecting, obedience, minority influence, social change, independent behaviour) Attachment explanations of attachment, types of attachments, cultural variations, Romanian orphan studies, maternal deprivation, influence of early attachments) Psychopathology (definitions of abnormality, phobias, depression and OCD and their therapies) Biopsychology (the nervous system, fight or flight, studying the brain, immune system, endocrine system, rhythms) Approaches (behavioural, social learning theory, humanistic psychology, cognitive, biological and psychodynamic approaches to explaining behaviour Research methods (all aspects of designing and running different kinds of research on humans, mathematical skills, descriptive and inferential statistics) In the second year you will study a compulsory element which is issues and debates (gender and cultural bias in research, freewill and determinism, nature-nurture debate, holism and reductionism and social sensitivity in research. You will also study three topics from the following: Relationships, gender, cognition, schizophrenia, eating behaviour, stress, aggression, forensic psychology and addiction)	
How the subject will be taught: There are three modules – two in the first year and a final module in year two. You will learn to write critically evaluative pieces of work based on scientific research studies to discuss the theories you will cover. You will have the opportunity to design and run research projects and write them up using the accepted scientific format. You will also learn how to analyse your results using a range of descriptive and inferential statistics. There is no formal coursework as the course is assessed by three 2 hour written exams at the end of the two years. There is an emphasis on exam technique and developing your study skills in lessons also.	

Expectations of students:

We would like you to ensure that:

All home learning tasks are completed on time and to the best of your ability

If you are away for any reason, that you come and get the work to catch up on including home learning, before the next lesson so that you don't get behind

You come to the lessons with all the correct notes, textbook and equipment and that your notes/folders are organised and tidy, dated and annotated with classwork, homework etc.

You take part fully in all tasks and activities including verbal discussions

You use written and verbal feedback to inform your progress

You come and ask for help if you need it and make use of the Tuesday after school catch up sessions if you do get behind or need extra help from the teachers

You have exemplary attendance (probably don't need to say this one!)

Summer work:

Research and prepare a report that explains the cognitive, emotional and behavioural clinical characteristics of:

Phobias

Depression

OCD

(It is important for you to bring your completed summer work with you on enrolment day, and hand it into the subject lead or head of faculty.)