

# The Vale Academy

## Sixth Form

### A Level

# Psychology

The Psychology A Level follows the OCR Specification and is classed as life or medical science

### What Entry Requirements Do I Need?

Normal Sixth Form entry requirements will gain access to the course. A GCSE grade 4/5 in English and a 5 in Maths/Science is desirable as you will need to express yourself clearly in writing and be able to analyse numerical data. You must be willing to apply yourself consistently to a demanding but interesting subject.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment for the course will be examined through 3 two-hour exams at the end of the second year.

### What Will I Learn On This Course?

Throughout the Psychology course you will develop both important knowledge and understanding as well as a number of key skills, including the following:

1. Your ability to learn independently
2. Your ability to critically analyse and evaluate research and theories
3. Your ability to carry out practical investigations and analyse data using descriptive and inferential statistics and write research reports.
4. Your understanding of scientific methodology and ethics
5. An understanding of debates in Psychology



### Topics in Year One will include:

- Social Psychology: Obedience to authority / Responses to people in need
- Cognitive Psychology: Memory/Attention
- Developmental Psychology: External influences on children's behaviour / Moral development
- Biological Psychology: Regions of the brain / Brain plasticity
- Individual Differences: Understanding disorders / Measuring differences
- Areas, perspectives and debates

Research Methods and data analysis will be taught alongside these topics.

### Topics in Year Two will include:

- Issues in Mental Health: historical context, the medical model of mental illness and alternatives to the medical model of mental illness.
- Child Development including pre-adult brain development and attachment
- Criminal Psychology including what makes a criminal (including brain abnormalities) and the effects of imprisonment.

### Assessment

There are three two-hour examinations taken at the end of the second year of the course: Research methods, Psychological Themes through Core Studies and Applied Psychology.

### What Kind of Person Studies This Course?

If you have an interest about what makes people tick then Psychology, the science of mind and behaviour, provides a valuable background for all occupations where you are in contact with people. Psychology has many professional and practical applications.

### Where Will an A Level in Psychology Lead Me?

Psychology is used in most employment today: Police, Medical Profession, Advertising, Management, Leisure Industry, Retail, Personnel, Teaching, Training, Service Industries, Air Force, Engineering and many more.

Applied Psychology includes Sport and Exercise Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Research, Forensic & Criminal Psychology, Counselling, Advertising and many more.