

# Psychology



The AS course is divided into two sections, which when combined, provide students with a broad knowledge and understanding of the principles of psychological study.

The A Level course comprises of three sections, focusing on introductory topics in Psychology, Psychology in context and issues or options in Psychology. Ideally, to be eligible to study Psychology, candidates should have achieved at least a grade C in GCSE Mathematics and English.

## **Course Content**

### AS Course (One Year):

Paper One - Introductory Topics in Psychology.

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment

Paper Two - Psychology in Context.

- Approaches in Psychology
- Psychopathology
- Research Methods

There are three compulsory sections within each examination paper, one from each area of Psychology. The written exam will be 1 hour 30 minutes. Each paper accounts for 50% of the total assessment and carries a total of 72 marks.

### A Level Course (Two Years):

Paper One - Introductory Topics in Psychology.

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

There are four compulsory sections which account for a third of the total assessment and carry a total of 96 marks. The written exam will be 2 hours.

Paper Two - Psychology in Context.

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

There are three compulsory sections which account for a third of the total assessment and carry a total of 96 marks. The written exam will be 2 hours.

Paper Three - Issues and Options in Psychology.

- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Relationships
- Stress
- Aggression

There is one compulsory section which accounts for a third of the total assessment and carry a total of 96 marks. The three sections offer a choice of three topics. Students are required to answer one from each section. The written exam will be 2 hours.

**Examination Board:** AQA (Specification A)

**Mode of Assessment:**

A feature of the Psychology A Level course is that candidates must be able to demonstrate their knowledge of psychological principles, terminology, concepts, empirical research and psychological methods in relation to the main topic areas.

In addition, candidates must also be able to demonstrate clear knowledge and understanding of the topic areas and an ability to question the theoretical and methodological approaches upon which they are based.

