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# Psychology

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## Course Introduction

For this new AS specification of work students will now study five approaches within Psychology (social, cognitive, psychodynamic, biological and behaviourism) as well as social psychology, memory, attachment, psychopathology and research methods. At A Level, students will broaden their knowledge and skills when studying biopsychology, scientific processes as well as issues and debates in Psychology.

## Assessment

AS Level Specification:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology.

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.
- 72 marks in total
- 50% of AS level

Questions.

Section A to C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks for each section.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context.

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.
- 72 marks in total
- 50% of AS level

Questions.

Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks.

Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks.

Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks.

A Level Specification:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

• Section A to D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks each section.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context.

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions.

• Section A & B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks.

• Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 48 marks

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology.

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 96 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions.

• Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks.

• Section B: one topic from option 1, 9–11 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks.

• Section C: one topic from option 2, 12–14 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks.

• Section D: one topic from option 3, 15–17 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks.

## Minimum Entry Requirement

Grade 6 in GCSE English language



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# Psychology

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## AS Level Specification

During the AS component (unit 1 and 2) of the AQA Psychology course students will complete the following topics:

1. Social influence
2. Memory
3. Attachment
4. Approaches in Psychology
5. Psychopathology
6. Research methods

### Unit 1: Social and cognitive psychology

This unit is designed to introduce the social and cognitive approaches of Psychology whilst looking at other Psychological phenomena. The unit is divided into two parts, social psychology and cognitive psychology. During the social psychology aspect of the course students will look at social influences, conformity, obedience, the bystander effect and social identity theory. When looking at cognitive psychology students will learn about memory and its various systems as well as attachment theory and development.

### Unit 2: Psychopathology and biopsychology

This unit focuses on the biological, behaviourist and psychodynamic perspectives of Psychology. Students will learn about the brain and how physiological factors affect the way we perceive and behave. Students will also learn about techniques and methods of changing and manipulating behaviour from a behaviourist

perspective. The unit finishes by looking at the unconscious mind and how this affects the way in which we see the world.

## A Level Specification

During the A2 component (unit 3 and 4) of the course students will complete the following topics:

1. Issues and debates in Psychology
2. 3 options
3. Research methods

### Unit 3: Issues and debates in Psychology

During this unit students will look at various debates in Psychology such as nature v nurture, truth v deception, evolution v manipulation. Students will gain new skills and knowledge whilst thinking independently and analytically.

### Unit 4: Options and research methods

In unit 4 students will study one of the three topics whilst focusing on scientific literacy skills. Students will use all the content knowledge and skills gained in order to further their understanding in this last unit. Through looking at mental health issues and disorders students will be able to put their knowledge in action and think like a psychologist.

