

# Psychology A Level

**Examining Body: AQA**

**Subject: PSYCHOLOGY**

## Entry Requirements

At least 5 A\*-C grades at GCSE, including English Language or English Literature and Core and Additional Science B grade.

A2 RESULTS =100% pass, 13% A\*/A, 46%A\*-B

## Synopsis of Content

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour. In the first year you will study Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Approaches and Biopsychology and how they attempt to explain behaviour. You will encounter questions such as 'why do we forget?', 'what causes prejudice?' and 'why are people terrified of spiders?' In the second year you will extend your knowledge in these areas as well as selecting additional topics of study. In addition, you will consider how psychologists conduct their research to help them in developing theories and discuss issues such as ethics and the nature nurture debate.

<b>Paper 1 Introductory topics</b> <b>2 hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social Influence</li><li>• Memory</li><li>• Attachment</li></ul>
<b>Paper 2 Psychology in context</b> <b>2 hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approaches</li><li>• Psychopathology</li><li>• Research Methods</li><li>• Biopsychology (A2 ONLY)</li></ul>
<b>Paper 3 Issues and Options</b> <b>2 hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issues and Debates (A2 ONLY)</li><li>• Relationships or Gender (A2 ONLY)</li><li>• Schizophrenia or stress (A2 ONLY)</li><li>• Aggression or Forensic or Addiction (A2 ONLY)</li></ul>

## Assessment Methods / Teaching Methods and Resources

All units are assessed through examinations. All exams involve short answer questions and extended writing. In addition to the exams, students will be required to complete several investigations throughout the two years.

A variety of teaching methods will be used including worksheets, discussions and practical experiments. Students will have access to one of the main supporting textbooks and there are several other useful books and websites.

## Suitability for Combination

Psychology combines well with both Social Science and Science A levels and is particularly complemented by Sociology and Biology.

## Progression to Higher Education / Vocational Destinations

Psychology is excellent preparation for higher education as it requires good literacy and scientific skills. Psychology is relevant to any career where a deeper understanding of people would be useful, ranging from advertising, medicine, personal management, law, social work and education. There are many areas of professional psychology including forensic, clinical and educational. (Those wishing to study psychology at degree level should note that some universities now require a B grade in GCSE mathematics and a few ask for a science A level.)