

# PSYCHOLOGY

## AT ADVANCED LEVEL (A/S AND A2)

Our Course: AQA, Specification

### Summary of Subject Content

The course is designed to develop an understanding of the breadth of different approaches in Psychology. By studying psychological theories, concepts and research, students will develop their understanding of principles and perspectives governing the subject.

### First Year

#### **AS: Unit 1: Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods.**

Topic list:

- Cognitive psychology, including memory and eyewitness testimony.
- Developmental psychology, including early social development, attachment and the effects of day care.
- Research methods, in the context of the topic areas.

Structured compulsory questions based on Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods.

Questions include short answer, stimulus material and one 12 mark question requiring extended writing.

#### **Unit 2: Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences**

Topic list:

- Biological psychology, including stress, factors affecting stress and managing stress
- Social psychology, including majority and minority influence, obedience and independent behaviour
- Individual differences, including definitions of abnormality, approaches and therapies.

**Assessment: Written Paper 1 and 2: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**100% of total AS**

**Weighting: 50% of total A Level marks**

Each exam consists of compulsory structured questions based on the content studied. Questions include short answer, stimulus material and one 12 or more mark question requiring extended writing.

## **Second Year**

### **A2: Unit 3: Topics in Psychology**

Topic list:

Biological rhythms and sleep, Perception, Relationships, Aggression Eating behaviour, Gender, Intelligence and learning, Cognition and development.

**Assessment: Written Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes**  
**Weighting: 25% of total A Level marks**

Three essay-style questions chosen from the eight topics.

### **Unit 4: Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods**

Topic list:

Biological approach, behaviourism, social learning theory, cognitive, psychodynamic and humanistic approaches

Comparison of approaches

Debates in psychology

Methods in psychology, inferential statistics, issues in research

**Assessment: Written Paper: 2 hours**  
**Weighting: 25% of total A Level marks**

Three sections: Psychopathology: One essay-style question chosen from three.

Psychology in Action: One question chosen from three.

Research Methods: One compulsory structured question.

### **Aptitudes, skills or qualities you will need:-**

This subject is suitable for a wide range of students who wish to develop their interest and enjoyment in Psychology, fostering its value in lifelong learning.

It is not necessary for students to have studied GCSE psychology before starting A-Level and no prior knowledge of Psychology is necessary. However, it is desirable to have achieved grades A-C in GCSE English and Mathematics.

The course has been designed to develop breadth of knowledge, critical thinking skills and an appreciation of the relationships between different aspects of the subject.

**Value of the subject for higher education and future careers:-**

The study of AS or A-Level Psychology provides a strong foundation for many higher education courses and prospective careers. Psychology is an important area for jobs concerned with working with and caring for people and young children such as health and social care.