

A Level Psychology

Exam Board: AQA

Course content

Psychology is the scientific study of the human condition in terms of both mind and behaviour. The Psychology course is designed to provide a wide range of skills to the learner, as well as providing an overview of one of the most exciting disciplines to explain the human condition. This focuses on applying various psychological principles to different stages of the criminal justice system. This involves identifying explanations as to why people commit crimes (e.g. biological explanations), ways of dealing with crimes (e.g. behaviour modification) and looking at how crime is investigated (e.g. the top-down approach).



psychology

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology:

Social influence: The topic explores four main areas including: conformity, obedience, minority influence and social change.

Memory: This topic focuses on how humans process and store information; the factors that affect the accuracy and reliability of eyewitness testimony; and how information is lost or forgotten.

Attachment: This examines the formation of attachments, animal studies of attachment, the cross-cultural differences in attachment, and the influence of early attachment on later adult relationships.

Psychopathology: considers different explanations for various psychological disorders including biological, psychological and social explanations.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context:

Approaches in Psychology: This topic considers the different beliefs of psychologists who make up the different approaches.

Biopsychology: The biopsychology topic examines: the nervous system; endocrine system, fight-or-flight; localisation of function; plasticity and functional recovery; ways of studying the brain; biological rhythms and endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers.

Research Methods: This topic examines the different tools and methods psychologists use to conduct

psychological research, analyse data and draw conclusions.

Paper 3: Advanced topics and options within Psychology:

Issues and Debates in Psychology: the different issues and debates produced within Psychological research.

Relationships: revolutionary explanations for partner preference, the factors that affect the initiation, maintenance and breakdown of romantic relationships, virtual relationships and parasocial relationships.

Schizophrenia: the classification and diagnosis of Schizophrenia, along with the different explanations for why individuals suffer from Schizophrenia, including the biological and psychological explanations.

Aggression: why people behave aggressively. It examines the biological, psychological, environmental explanations. As well as looking at the effects of computer games.

Assessment:

3 x written papers. Each paper is worth 96 marks and is 2 hours long. Each paper is worth 33.3% of the final grade.

Progression:

There are many occupations that involve a psychological background including Occupational Psychologists, Forensic and Clinical Psychologists, Nursing, Teaching, Policing, Law, Sports and Business.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in English, Maths and Biology.