



Psychology Course Content

Key Stage 5: A Level

Years 12 & 13

A Level (Two year course):

The Psychology A level course comprises of three papers taken at the end of the two-year course. All assessment is by written exam and there is no coursework requirement. Each of the three (two hour) A level exams is worth a third of the total A level marks. Each exam includes multiple choice, short answer and extended essay writing questions.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology	Paper 2: Psychology in Context	Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology
<p>Attachment:</p> <p>How and why we form our earliest relationships, animal studies of attachment, what happens when attachments are disrupted, the influence of early attachments on our later relationships.</p>	<p>Approaches In Psychology:</p> <p>The basic assumptions of the behaviourist, cognitive, biological psychodynamic and humanistic approaches to understanding human behaviour and personality.</p>	<p>Issues and Debates:</p> <p>Gender and culture in Psychology universality and bias; free will and determinism - the scientific emphasis on causal explanations; the naturenurture debate; holism and reductionism; idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation; ethical implications of psychological research including social sensitivity.</p>
<p>Memory:</p> <p>How and why we remember, how and why we forget, factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony and the use of the cognitive interview to improve it.</p>	<p>Biopsychology:</p> <p>Understanding the divisions of the nervous system, the function of the endocrine system, the flight or fight response, the localisation of function in the brain, ways of studying the brain including scanning techniques, biological rhythms and sleep.</p>	<p>Relationships:</p> <p>Sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour; factors affecting attraction; theories of romantic relationships; virtual relationships in social media and parasocial relationships.</p>
<p>Social psychology:</p> <p>Why we conform or obey and what causes independent behaviour.</p>	<p>Research methods:</p> <p>Features of science including objectivity and empirical methods and techniques, experimental design, validity and reliability, analysis of quantitative and qualitative data including observations and questionnaires, ethical issues in conducting psychological research, and the use of statistical methods including inferential tests.</p>	<p>Schizophrenia:</p> <p>Classification and diagnosis of schizophrenia, clinical symptoms, biological and psychological explanations, and treatments for the disorder.</p>
<p>Psychopathology:</p> <p>Definitions of abnormality, understanding phobias, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder; biological, cognitive and behavioural treatments for these disorders.</p>		<p>Forensic Psychology:</p> <p>Defining crime; offender profiling, biological and psychological explanations of offending behaviour; dealing with offending behaviour and psychological effects of custodial sentencing.</p>