

AS-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

The specification enables candidates to:

- develop an interest in and enthusiasm for psychology, including an interest in further study and careers in the subject
- appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society
- develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of How Science Works
- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of psychology and how they relate to each other.

Course content and assessment

Unit 1:

- Cognitive Psychology: Models of memory and memory in every day life, ie the accuracy of eyewitness testimony and strategies for improving memory.
- Developmental Psychology: Explanations and variety of attachment and attachment in everyday life, i.e. the influence of research on childcare practices.
- Research Methods: Experimental and non-experimental Methods, Designs and data analysis, including an understanding of the ethical guidelines that guide psychological research.

Unit 2:

- Biological Psychology: the body's response to Stress and stress in everyday life, ie sources of stress and stress management techniques.
- Social Psychology: Explanations for conformity / obedience and social influence in everyday life, i.e. the influence of individual differences on resisting social pressure and implications of research for social change.
- Individual differences: Defining and explaining abnormality; treating abnormality, ie physical and psychological treatment techniques.

These units will be assessed via two formal exams lasting one hour thirty minutes each.

Teaching and Learning

A significant amount of group work and discussion takes place. The subject is very well supported by learning resources on the virtual learning environment. The essay writing skills of each learner will progressively improve and there will be regular online testing.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification A 2180