

A Level Psychology course content

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour.

Students studying AS on the AQA (A) specification study the following:

Compulsory topics – Paper 1 - **Memory** (theories of remembering, theories of forgetting and eye witness testimony); **attachment** (including care-giver infant interactions, animal attachment, theories of attachment, orphan studies, types of attachment, maternal deprivation and cultural variations in attachment and the internal working model); **social influence** (conformity; obedience; minority influence; social change).

Compulsory topics – Paper 2 - **Psychopathology** (OCD; depression and phobias – theories and therapies); **approaches** (biological, cognitive, behaviourist and bio-psychology); **research methods** (experimental and non-experimental methods, sampling techniques, data analysis and presentation, ethical issues in research, inferential testing (A Level only)).

Assessment is through the above two 1 ½ hour papers.

Students going on to study the full A Level study all the above topics plus three options on paper 3 – **schizophrenia; forensic psychology and relationships**.

Issues and debates is a compulsory topic on paper 3 that includes the following issues and debates: the nature v nurture debate; reductionism v holism debate; ethical issues in research; gender issues; cultural issues; ideographic v nomothetic methods.

Assessment is through three 2 hour papers at the end of the second year.