



AS/A2 Psychology

Examination Board: AQA A

AS Examinations

2 papers, 50% each of total AS mark, 25% of total A2 marks.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins each

Content

Unit 1 – PSYA 1

- Cognitive Psychology – Models of memory and memory in everyday life to include eye witness testimony
- Developmental Psychology – Attachment to include evolutionary and cultural variations in attachment: attachment in everyday life looking at the impact and research into day care and childrens social development
- Research methods – looking at methods and techniques in psychological research, investigation design and data analysis and presentation.

Unit 2 – PSYA 2

- Biological Psychology – looking at stress; the body's response to stress and stress in everyday life
- Social Psychology – different types of social influence, looking at why people conform and why people obey. Explanations of independent behaviour. Changing research methods into social psychology.
- Individual Differences – abnormality, defining and explaining psychological abnormality, looking at ways of treating abnormality including psychoanalysis

A2 Examinations

2 papers each 25% of final A level marks.

Duration: Unit 3 – 1 hr 30 mins
Unit 4 – 2 hrs

Content

Unit 3 – PSYA 3 - Topics in Psychology

Candidates will be expected to develop knowledge, understanding and skills of analysis and evaluation in relation to 3 topics selected from the following

- Biological rhythm
- Perception
- Relationships
- Early behaviour
- Gender
- Intelligence and learning
- Cognition and developments

Unit 4 – PSYA

- Psychopathology

Candidates will be expected to develop knowledge and understanding of one of the following disorders

- Schizophrenia
- Depression
- Anxiety disorders

and apply knowledge and understanding of models, classification and diagnosis to their chosen disorder.

- Psychology in Action

Candidates will study one contemporary application of psychology in detail in one of the following

- Media psychology
 - The psychology of addictive behaviour
 - Anomalistic psychology
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- Psychological Research & Scientific Method

Candidates will be expected to extend their AS knowledge and develop an understanding of the nature of Science and Scientific method

Assessment Pattern

Candidates will be offered the possibility to sit one AS Unit in January of year 12 and the second in June.

The same pattern will be followed in Yr 13. This allows for flexibility and for the candidates to achieve the best possible marks on each paper. It also alleviates congestion in May/June when students may have a large number of papers to sit.

Why Study Psychology?

Psychology is one of the most popular A level subjects and is accepted by universities as a strong academic subject both in faculties of science and arts.

What do I need to study A level Psychology?

No prior knowledge of Psychology is necessary to study the subject at A level. However a keenness to learn and an enthusiasm to read around the subject to extend your knowledge and understanding is invaluable.

For further details see: Mrs M Carter