

Course Description

Psychology

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AS Level

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Social Influence: Investigating the degree to which others shape our behaviour so that we try to fit in or we obey those in authority.

Memory: Analysing the different explanations of how we remember, our different types of memory and why we forget.

Attachments: Understanding the importance of developing strong bonds when we are young and the effects these have for later life.

Assessment: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
72 marks in total = 50% of AS

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

Approaches in Psychology: We learn the big theories explaining our psychologies – learning theory, the cognitive approach and biological explanations.

Psychopathology: How we decide if someone's behaviour is abnormal, the ideas explaining why people get mentally ill and different treatments.

Research methods: Psychology is a science. You will learn how we use the scientific process, observations and experiments to gather data which is then analysed.

Assessment: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
72 marks in total = 50% of AS

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

1 Issues and debates in Psychology:

2 Options: With a new specification we have a number of exciting options to choose from. One from each set of three:

Option 1 Relationships, Gender OR Cognition and development

Option 2 Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour OR Stress

Option 3 Aggression, Forensic Psychology OR Addiction

Assessment: Written exam: 2 hours
96 marks in total = 33.3% of A Level

A Level

Introductory Topics in Psychology:

Social Influence: Similar content to the AS.

Memory: Similar content to the AS.

Attachments: Similar content to the AS.

Psychopathology: Similar content to the AS from Paper 2.

Assessment: written exam: 2 hours
96 marks in total = 33.3% of A Level

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

Approaches in Psychology: Similar content to the AS

Research methods: Similar content to the AS.

Biopsychology: Investigating the many biological factors explaining our behaviour; ranges from hormones, adrenaline (fight or flight) and biological rhythms to the structure of the brain, how it recovers after trauma and ways of studying the brain e.g. scanning and imaging techniques.

Assessment: written exam: 2 hours
96 marks in total = 33.3% of A Level

Entry Criteria

GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language or English Literature, Mathematics and Grade 6 in Science.