

# Course Description

## Psychology

### Course description

#### Year 1 - 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 obey those in authority.

**Memory:** Analysing the different explanations of how our memory works, different types of memory and why we forget. Also exploring eyewitness testimony.

**Attachment:** 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 theories and explanations to explaining human behaviour. This topic includes the origins of Psychology, the learning approaches, the cognitive approach and biological approach.

**Psychopathology:** This topic includes how we decide if someone's behaviour is abnormal, the explanations of why people have mental ill health and the different treatments. We learn about OCD, Phobias and depression.

**Research methods:** The different types of research methods used within investigations such as experiments. Students learn about different scientific processes such as hypotheses and ethics. Students will also learn about data handling and analysis in research such as descriptive statistics. This topic also includes inferential statistics.

**Assessment:**

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Assessment Objectives-** AO1 Knowledge and understanding, AO2 Application and AO3 Evaluation is assessed for all specification areas across both year 1 and 2. Overall, at least 10% of the marks in assessments for Psychology will require the use of mathematical skills.

#### Year 2 - A Level

##### **Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology**

**Social Influence:** Content completed in AS year 1 but extension of skills and application needed for A Level.

**Memory:** Content completed in AS year 1 but extension of skills and application needed for A Level.

**Attachment:** Content completed in AS year 1 but extension of skills and application needed for A Level.

**Psychopathology:** Content completed in AS year 1 but extension of skills and application needed for A Level.

**Assessment:**

Written exam: 2 hours

96 marks in total = 33.3% of A Level

##### **Paper 2: Psychology in Context**

**Approaches in Psychology:** Content completed in AS year 1 but extension of skills and application. New Year 2 topic "Add on" booklet material completed.

**Research methods:** Content completed in AS year 1 but also a second year of "Add on" booklet material completed.

This unit of work is worth 25% marks overall across all.

**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 techniques.

**Assessment:** written exam: 2 hours

96 marks in total = 33.3% of A Level

##### **Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology**

###### **1. Issues and Debates in Psychology:**

**Options:** We have a number of exciting options we choose as a cohort from. One from each set of three:

**Option 1.** Relationships, Gender OR Cognition and development. We teach **Relationships** at Southam College.

**Option 2.** Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour OR Stress. We teach **Schizophrenia** at Southam College.

**Option 3.** Aggression, Forensic Psychology OR Addiction. We teach **Aggression** at Southam College.

**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 Science also Grade 6.