

The **GCE A-Level in Psychology (AQA)** is an engaging course that explores the scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes. It equips students with knowledge of key psychological theories, research methods, and applications, fostering analytical and evaluative skills. This qualification is ideal for those curious about understanding behaviour and its real-world implications.

Key Features

1. **Qualification Level:** A-Level (Level 3).
 2. **Assessment:**
 - Three written exams (100% of the qualification).
 - No coursework or non-exam assessment.
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Content of Study

The course introduces core areas of psychology and explores applied topics, with a strong focus on scientific methodology.

Year 1 Topics

1. **Social Influence**
 - Conformity, obedience, and resistance to social influence.
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 2. **Memory**
 - Models of memory: multi-store and working memory.
 - Explanations for forgetting and factors affecting eyewitness testimony.
 3. **Attachment**
 - Development of attachment in infants.
 - Effects of early attachment on later relationships.
 4. **Approaches in Psychology**
 - Overview of key approaches: biological, behavioural, cognitive, psychodynamic, and humanistic.
 5. **Psychopathology**
 - Definitions of abnormality and approaches to explaining and treating mental disorders (phobias, depression, OCD).
 6. **Research Methods**
 - Experimental methods, data analysis, and ethical considerations.
 - Designing and conducting psychological investigations.
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Year 2 Topics

1. **Biopsychology**
 - Structure and function of the nervous system.
 - The role of the brain in behaviour and biological rhythms.
2. **Issues and Debates in Psychology**

- Ethical considerations, nature vs. nurture, and free will vs. determinism.
3. **Optional Topics** (One from each group):
- Group 1:** Relationships, Gender, or Cognition and Development.
 - Group 2:** Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour, or Stress.
 - Group 3:** Aggression, Forensic Psychology, or Addiction.
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Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (33.3%)

- Written exam: 2 hours (96 marks).
- Content: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology
- Questions: Multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context (33.3%)

- Written exam: 2 hours (96 marks).
- Content: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, and Research Methods.
- Questions: Multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing.

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (33.3%)

- Written exam: 2 hours (96 marks).
 - Content: Issues and Debates, plus three optional topics.
 - Questions: Multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing.
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Skills Developed

- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating psychological theories and research.
 - **Scientific Literacy:** Designing experiments, analysing data, and interpreting findings.
 - **Research Skills:** Conducting investigations and adhering to ethical guidelines.
 - **Analytical Skills:** Identifying patterns, relationships, and trends in behaviour.
 - **Communication:** Writing clear, evidence-based arguments.
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Career Pathways

This qualification provides a foundation for:

1. **Higher Education:** Degrees in psychology, neuroscienceology, or counselling.
 2. **Professional Training:** Careers in clinical psychology, forensic psychology, educational psychology, or research.
 3. **Employment:** Roles in mental health services, human resources, marketing, or public services.
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Who Is It For?

- Students curious about understanding the science behind behaviour and mental processes.
- Those interested in applying psychological knowledge to real-world problems.

- Learners aiming for careers in psychology, social sciences, healthcare, or education.

Let me know if you'd like more details about specific topics, assessment preparation, or career opportunities!