Course Description

Psychology

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 learning approaches, the cognitive approach and biological approach.

Clinical Psychology and Mental Health: This topic includes definitions in the field of mental health, the explanations of why people have ill mental 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 72 marks in total =50% of AS

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 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.

Clinical Psychology and Mental Health: 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; ranging from adrenaline (fight or flight) to the structure and functions of the brain. In addition, how the brain 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

Section A: Issues & Debates in Psychology:
Option B: Relationships.
Option C: Schizophrenia.
Option D: Aggression.
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 Literature. Grade 6 in Mathematics and Grade 6 in Science (Biology preferred).

Exam Board: AQA Specification link: https://cdn.sanity.io/files/p28bar15/green/7776abdbe9520e22a017380dbb32d4150a31decd.pdf

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