



PSYCHOLOGY AS/A LEVEL

Awarding Body
Edexcel

Who is the course for?

This course is for students wanting to progress on to further education in any psychological field of study or for students who are keen to learn about human behaviour and the processes of the mind.

What can it lead to?

Psychology is a very useful subject for any career where you interact with people. Occupations such as journalism, nursing and marketing all welcome trainees who have studied psychology.

If you are considering Higher Education, psychology can be an invaluable subject. As it sits on the boundary between Arts and Science subjects, it combines elements of both. If you choose the Arts route, psychology shows a competence in scientific thinking and numeracy that will add breadth to your skills. Similarly, the Science route can often lack the opportunity to show your ability to construct a well argued essay, but psychology will show you can do this.

What are the entry requirements?

A- C grades in English, Maths and Science

What will I Study?

AS Psychology

You will learn about five major approaches to psychology in the AS course. In each one you will discover a key topic of research, learn about important studies related to that topic, and find out how research is conducted in that area of psychology. You will learn to use statistical tests to help interpret data collected in class exercises.

A2 Psychology

You will learn about applications of Psychology and how Psychology can be applied to the real

world focusing on two main applications.

You will also be studying aspects of clinical psychology, which looks at, amongst other issues, how the different approaches studied in *Units 1 and Unit 2: Understanding the Individual* explain and treat mental health issues. As with the study of applications in *Unit 3*: methodological issues are also considered. There is a focus, too, on How Science Works.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught through distinct modules of content with related units of assessment taken at appropriate stages through the course.

How will I be assessed?

AS

Unit 1: Social and Cognitive Psychology

AS The examination paper is of 1 hour 20 minutes duration.

The examination paper will consist of a section of objective test items, a short-answer section and an extended writing section. 60 marks- 40 % of the AS total grade

Unit 2: Understanding the Individual

AS The examination paper is of 1 hour 40 minutes duration.

The examination paper will consist of a section of objective test items, a short-answer section and an extended writing section.

80 marks- 60% of the AS total grade

A2

Unit 3: Applications of Psychology

A2 The examination paper is of 1 hour 30 minutes duration.

The examination is divided into four options. Students must select two options.

Each option will consist of a short-answer section and an extended writing section.

60 marks- 40% of the A2 total grade

Unit 4: How Psychology Works

A2 The examination paper is of 2 hours duration.

The examination consists of two parts.

Students must answer both parts.

Each section will consist of a short-answer section and an extended writing section.

90 marks- 60% of the A2 total grade

What equipment or materials will I need?

- one lever arch folder, with a set of file dividers
- an exam pad of hole-punched A4 paper
- AS Edexcel Psychology Student book
- A2 Edexcel Psychology Student book for the second year of study