

SUBJECT:	PSYCHOLOGY
Title of GCE:	A Level Psychology
Exam Board:	AQA
Syllabus Number:	7182/1, 7182/2, 7182/3

Course Overview:

This subject is classed as a science. It is extremely useful in combination with other sciences or humanities subjects, as it enables you to understand how human beings behave, both individually and as part of a group or society. Psychology is therefore a helpful addition to all career paths.

Over the two years of study, you will have the opportunity to design and conduct informal research both in and outside the classroom, using a variety of methods. A confident understanding of maths and 'how science works' is therefore essential as you will be expected to create and analyse data. Strong essay writing and evaluative skills are also helpful as you will need to be able to synthesise arguments effectively.

Paper 1 contains: 'Social Influence' including Asch's studies on compliance; 'Attachment', which looks at child development and bonding. Psychopathology, which includes phobias and OCD; and Memory which should help you to remember your A level subjects!

Paper 2 contains: 'Approaches' which includes different ways of examining human and animal behaviour. These include the Biological Approach (how we inherit traits and how our genes affect behaviour) and the Behaviourist Approach (how we learn and become conditioned by other people and the environment). Paper 2 also contains Biopsychology which looks at brain areas and their functions, and 'Research Methods' which looks at how research is carried out and how to analyse results to assess their significance.

Paper 3 contains: The ever-popular Forensic topic, as well 'Issues and Debates' of contemporary interest. See below for more details of what is examined on each paper.

Psychology can help you understand yourself better. It's a great choice for anyone interested in understanding other people and why we behave the way we do. If you're good at arguing your point, interested in science and maths then it should be a good choice for you.

A Level Assessment:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social Influence; Memory; Attachment; Psychopathology.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research Methods.

Paper 3: Issues and debates in Psychology: Issues and Debates, Relationships; Schizophrenia; Forensic Psychology.

Each of the 3 Papers is a 2 hour paper and worth 33.3% of the marks.

Coursework/Controlled Assessment: Not applicable

Career opportunities:

It is relevant to all career paths. It is useful for students who intend to study a subject at university which requires a Science A level, such as nursing.

It is relevant to any career as it focuses on understanding human beings in a variety of situations and environments such as Human Resources and where working as part of a team is required.

'I enjoy participating in debates in Psychology, as it is interesting to hear other people's opinions. We always discuss interesting and controversial topics.' A level Psychology student.

'Psychology is a lesson I look forward to. I always feel engaged in my lessons and it encourages me to learn. Everyone can have a voice in psychology, and every voice contributes to my learning.' A level Psychology student.

Students who study this subject often complement it with:

Biology, History, Sociology, Mathematics, PE, Physics.

Useful revision websites:

www.rcpsych.org.uk

<http://bps-research-digest.blogspot.com/search?q>

<http://www.psychexchange.co.uk>

For more information or advice contact:

Mrs Hulse or Miss Merrison