

PSYCHOLOGY

AQA AS level specification 1181

"I have really enjoyed this course because it is so relevant to real life."

Unit	Unit Title	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting at AS
1	Cognitive psychology Developmental psychology Research Methods	1 hour 30 minutes	Written examination, structured questions and short essays	50%
2	Biological psychology Social psychology Individual differences	1 hour 30 minutes	Written examination, structured questions and short essays	50%

The first unit we will look at is how memory works and how we can apply this knowledge to police interviewing practices. Then we will go on to study how children attach to their parents, and what the consequences may be when children and parents are separated. In the spring term we will study stress and how to manage it, as well as looking at why people conform to group norms.

Alongside studying these topics, we will learn how to do research. We will undertake some practical activities and collect and analyse the data.

Course prerequisites:

Science and English grade B at GCSE are recommended and curiosity is essential.

Psychology combines well with Arts subjects such as English, and Drama, as well as with Religious Studies. On the Science side, it makes a good combination with Biology and Chemistry. There is also an overlap with PE, so it makes a useful preparation for studying Sports Science at university. Business Studies and Photography also work well with Psychology, and are a good preparation for entrance into Marketing courses.

As entrance into the most highly regarded university courses in Psychology is very competitive, it is important to consider how your A level choices work together.



PSYCHOLOGY

AQA A2 level specification 2181

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Unit	Unit Title	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting at A2
3	Topics in Psychology: Biological Rhythms and Sleep Relationships Eating behaviour	1 hour 30 minutes	Written examination essays	50%
4	Psychopathology Psychology in Action Research Methods	2 hours	Written examination essays	50%

At A2 level we study three new topics which bring together different approaches, and engage in some lively debates about issues in psychology.

We will study schizophrenia, or phobias, looking at possible explanations and therapies for these disorders. Then we will make a choice of one contemporary issue to investigate: media psychology, addiction, or anomalous psychology, that is, paranormal phenomena.

We will continue to do practical activities, collecting, analysing and evaluating data.

