

Curriculum Information for Parents

Key Stage 5 Psychology

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Paul Kennewell			
Examination Board	AQA	Specification Code	7182

Subject Content

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. As a science it attempts to investigate the causes of behaviour using systematic and objective procedures for observation, measurement and analysis of behaviour in a number of different situations. It is a popular subject which looks at a number of everyday psychological issues. Students learn how psychologists explain our behaviour in a number of different areas of life, analyse their research findings and the debates within the subject.

Unit 1 Introductory topics in psychology:

Social Influence

Social influence: how an individual's beliefs, attitudes or behaviour may be altered by interaction with another individual or group. Conformity, obedience and social change.

Memory

Memory and the different aspects of memory: the working memory, forgetting, how experiences are retrieved e.g. during a 'cognitive interview'.

Attachment

The development of attachment relationships between a child and their primary care giver and the consequences of lack of attachment e.g. maternal deprivation.

Unit 2 Psychology in context

Approaches in Psychology

This section considers the origins of psychology as a science and different psychological approaches to explaining behaviour.

Biopsychology

Neurological processes of the brain and nervous systems.

Psychopathology

Psychopathology considers the concept of abnormality: how we define abnormality, the characteristics of specific disorders and how they are explained and treated.

Research Methods

The different research methods used in Psychology : their strengths and weaknesses. The use of statistical methods in Psychology.

Unit 3 Issues and Options in Psychology

Issues and debates in psychology: the key issues and debates in Psychology and how they influence psychological research. e.g Nature-nurture debate, ethical issues in research

Options in psychology

Option one: Cognition and development.

Option two: Stress.

Option three: Forensic psychology

Additional Equipment Required:

Folders for work

Calculators for Mathematical content

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Assessment Details

Psychology A level is exam based, with three papers taken at the end of the course. All papers include multiple choice, short answer and extended writing activities

Papers	Time	% of Exam
Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology	2 Hours	33.3%
Paper 2: Psychology in context	2 Hours	33.3%
Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology	2 Hours	33.3%

What can I do to support my child at home?

- Encourage students to carry out wider reading on topics covered in class
- Read through student answers to support their development of writing skills and to review work
- Use the AQA Psychology website to practice exam questions, utilise mark schemes and examiners report
- Be aware of homework deadlines (Go4schools) and encourage students to meet them to avoid late submission of work
- Encourage students to learn key words and terminology from the course notes
- Keep their work organised in appropriate folders to enable later revision

Recommended resources for the course:

Websites

<http://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/psychology-revision/a-level-aqa/>
<https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html>
<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>

Textbooks

AQA Psychology for A-level Year 1 & AS Authors: Cara Flanagan, Dave Berry, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle
 Publisher: Illuminate Publishing ISBN-13: [978-1-908682-40-6](#)

AQA Psychology for A-level Year 2 Authors: Cara Flanagan, Dave Berry, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle
 Publisher: Illuminate Publishing ISBN-13: [978-1-908682-41-3](#)

Teaching Staff Contact Details

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Additional Information:

AQA A level Psychology is designated as a science subject. It therefore has a 10% Mathematics content and 20% Research method related content across the specification