

## A LEVEL

Exam board AQA

# PSYCHOLOGY

## SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General entry requirement for advanced level applies to this subject.

## COURSE CONTENT

### Year 12

**Social influence:** this topic focuses on why people obey authority and also why people conform within social situations. We also study how and why people stand out from the crowd and are able to resist pressures to conform or obey.

**Memory:** studying models of how the long term and short-term memory works. Also studying how police conduct interviews and look at eyewitness testimony so that they can get reliable evidence.

**Attachment:** studying how children get attached to those who care for them. How these attachments are studied and problems in attachment in children who have had no chance to form attachments; for example, children brought up in Romanian orphanages.

**Psychopathology:** investigating the causes and treatments for phobias, OCD and depression.

**Biopsychology:** the nervous system and hormones in determining behaviour, the fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline, the function in the brain and recovery of the brain after trauma, ways of studying the brain and biological rhythms and sleep.

### Year 13

**Forensic psychology:** offender profiling, explanations of offending behaviour, dealing with offending behaviour: the aims of custodial sentencing and the psychological effects of custodial sentencing. Anger management and restorative justice programmes.

**Schizophrenia:** classification of schizophrenia. Positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia; explanations for schizophrenia; drug therapy, cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy.

**Relationships:** The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences. Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships. Relationship breakdown. Virtual relationships in social media. Parasocial relationships e.g. one-sided relationships with for example a celebrity)

## EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

**Papers 1, 2 & 3:** three written examinations of 120 minutes each. Worth 33.3% respectively of the final A Level marks.

## SKILLS, LINKS AND PROGRESSION

Psychology links well with science, especially biology, and also business, maths, geography, history, English, sociology, RPE and PE. A background in psychology can be useful for careers in psychology (e.g. clinical, educational, occupational, sports, forensic and criminal), medicine, law, police, social work, teaching, physiotherapy and nursing.

## CONTACT

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