

AS and A2 Psychology

Board and Syllabus

We will be studying the OCR syllabus and using a modular route which will contain three examinations if the candidate wishes to obtain AS Psychology at the end of the first year, and five examinations and coursework if the candidate wishes to obtain A level Psychology at the end of the second year. We will be covering twenty of the most famous and notorious studies that form the basis of the course, together with a series of practical assignments, which will form part of the coursework.

Psychology AS level is taken as a one year course and the candidate can take three examinations of 1 hour each at the end of the first year. These results can be banked as part of the A2 course leading to A level Psychology or the candidate can stop studying at the end of the first year having completed AS Psychology.

Content of the AS Modules

1. Core Studies 1

The Core Studies have been selected to reflect the five core areas clearly defined in the Subject Criteria for Psychology. They are arranged under the headings of:

Cognitive Psychology	Social Psychology
Physiological Psychology	Developmental Psychology
The Psychology of Individual Differences	

In Core Studies 1 the candidate is tested on their knowledge and understanding of the twenty studies covered. In particular they are asked questions about:

- the information in the studies
- the way the results are analysed and presented
- the general psychological issues illustrated by the studies
- evaluations of all the above
- the methods used in the studies
- the conclusions that can be drawn from the studies

2. Core Studies 2

Using the same core studies from Unit 1 the candidate is asked to explore the themes and perspectives of the studies, paying attention to areas involving ethnocentric bias, nature and nurture, and social control among many others.

3. Psychological Investigations

This module concentrates on work conducted during practical activities. Candidates complete a practical folder based on four specified practical activities. The examination contains questions about these activities and their methodology.

Content of the A2 Modules

4. Psychology Research Report (Coursework)

Candidates produce two pieces of work; a practical project and an assignment. The first is a report of about 1,400 words on a piece of practical work carried out by the candidate. The second is an assignment of approximately 1000 words which relates psychological theory and evidence to a real-life event.

5. The Specialist Choices

Candidates are required to study how Psychology is applied in two of the following areas:

Psychology and Education	Psychology and the Environment
Psychology and Health	Psychology and Sport
Psychology and Organisations	Psychology and Crime

They are asked to describe and evaluate two of these areas in the light of psychological theories, studies and evidence. We study Psychology and Health and Psychology and Crime.

Psychology is a fascinating subject and this course is based on the application of psychology to real-life events. The examination timetable means that the candidate does three examinations of 1 hour each, ie Core Studies 1, Core Studies 2, and Psychological Investigations at the end of Year 1 and two more, ie two of the specialist choices which lead to an examination on each of 1½ hours, together with the coursework, as described above, at the end of Year 2. All of these modules are practical in nature and will interest those pupils who enjoy studying man and his relationship to his environment.