

**AS**

At AS, candidates will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas of psychology (social, cognitive, developmental, biological and individual differences) through a range of topics, chosen for their accessibility and popularity.

**A2**

At A2, the specification offers a range of topic-based options which bring together explanations from different psychological approaches and engage students in issues and debates in psychology.

## Unit 1: Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods

**Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes**

**50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A Level marks**

Structured compulsory questions based on Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods

Questions include short answer, stimulus material and one 12-mark question requiring extended writing in which QWC will be assessed

Available January and June

### Subject Content

- Cognitive psychology, including memory and eyewitness testimony
- Developmental psychology, including early social development, attachment and the effects of day care
- Research methods, in the context of the topic areas

## Unit 2: Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences

**Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes**

**50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A Level marks**

Three compulsory structured questions; one based on Biological Psychology content, one based on Social Psychology content and one based on the Individual Differences content

Questions include short answer, stimulus material and one or more 12-mark questions requiring extended writing in which QWC will be assessed

Available January and June

### Subject Content

- Biological psychology, including stress, factors affecting stress, coping with stress and managing stress
- Social psychology, including conformity, obedience and independent behaviour
- Individual differences, including definitions of abnormality, approaches and therapies

## Unit 3: Topics in Psychology

**Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes**

**25% of total A Level marks**

Three essay-style questions chosen from the eight topics

QWC will be assessed in each essay

Available January and June

### Subject Content

Three from:

- Biological rhythms and sleep
- Perception
- Relationships
- Aggression
- Eating behaviour
- Gender
- Intelligence and learning
- Cognition and development

## Unit 4: Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

**Written Paper, 2 hours**

**25% of total A Level marks**

Three sections:

Psychopathology: One essay-style question chosen from three. QWC will be assessed in this essay

Psychology in Action: One question chosen from three

Research Methods: One compulsory structured question

Available January and June

### Subject Content

Psychopathology – knowledge and understanding of models, classification, diagnosis and therapies in relation to one disorder chosen from:

- Schizophrenia
- Depression
- Anxiety disorder

Psychology in Action – one contemporary issue chosen from:

- Media psychology
- The psychology of addictive behaviour
- Anomalistic psychology

Psychological Research and Scientific Method

## Assessment Objectives

**AO1**

Recognise, recall and show understanding of scientific knowledge, select, organise and communicate relevant information in a variety of forms

**AO2**

Analyse and evaluate scientific knowledge, apply knowledge and processes to unfamiliar situations, assess the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information

**AO3**

Describe ethical, safe and skilful practical techniques and processes, know how to make, record and communicate valid observations analyse, interpret, explain and evaluate the methodology and investigative activities in a variety of ways