

AS

At AS, candidates will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the core topics of modern psychology; social, cognitive, developmental, biological and individual differences. The topic areas have been chosen because of their accessibility and popularity in previous specifications.

A2

At A2, the specification retains the popular child development options and offers candidates various applied psychology options. Debates within psychology, presented at this stage in the specification, provide the opportunity for extension work and higher-level discussion. Questions will be closely modelled on the style of the old Specification B.

Unit 1: Introducing Psychology

Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes

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

Candidates answer three compulsory questions, one on each section. The paper will comprise mainly short answer questions with some extended writing in Section A and Section B

Each question will be worth 20 marks

Available January and June

Subject Content

- Key approaches in psychology, biopsychology, physiological psychology, the genetic basis of behaviour
- Gender development, concepts and explaining gender development
- Research methods, planning research, experimental and non-experimental methods, representing data and descriptive statistics, ethics

Unit 2: Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Individual Differences

Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes

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

Candidates answer one question (from a choice of two) from each section. The paper will comprise mainly short answer questions with some extended writing

Each question will be worth 20 marks

Available January and June

Subject Content

- Social influence or social cognition
- Cognitive psychology: remembering and forgetting or perceptual processes
- Individual differences: anxiety disorders or autism

Unit 3: Child Development and Applied Options

Written Paper, 2 hours

25% of total A Level marks

Candidates answer one question from Section A and two questions from Section B. There will be some short answer questions and one 12-mark part-question, requiring extended writing, in each question. Each question will be worth 20 marks

Section B: Five optional essay questions are set; candidates answer two

Available January and June

Subject Content

- Child development – Social, Cognitive or Moral Development
- Cognition and Law
- Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia
- Stress and Stress Management
- Substance Abuse, Treatment and Prevention
- Forensic Psychology

Unit 4: Approaches, Debates and Methods in Psychology

Written Paper, 2 hours

25% of total A Level marks

Candidates answer one question in Section A and one compulsory question in Section B and Section C. There will be some short answer questions and one 12-mark part-question, requiring extended writing.

Each question will be worth 20 marks

Available June

Subject Content

- Biological approach, behaviourism, social learning theory, cognitive, psychodynamic and humanistic approaches
- Comparison of approaches
- Debates in psychology – freewill/determinism, nature/nurture, holism and reductionism, idiographic and nomothetic approaches, psychology and science
- Methods in psychology, inferential statistics, issues in research

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