



A' Level Psychology

Exam Board: AQA



Course Structure:

Due to the introduction of the new specifications students will have the option to study Psychology at AS or take the full A level.

If they are taking the full A level they will sit 3 exams at the end of A2. They may choose to sit the AS exam as an indicator of their progress but this will NOT count towards their final grade.

If they choose to sit the AS they will have two exams at the end of year 12.

The AS course will cover:

Exam 1: Social influence, Memory & Attachment

Exam 2: Approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology, Research methods

The A2 course will cover:

Exam 1: Social influence, Memory, Attachment & Psychopathology

Exam 2: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research methods & issues and debates in psychology

Exam 3: Relationships, Schizophrenia & Forensic Psychology

What can I do with Psychology?

Organisational Psychologist

Occupational psychology

Clinical Psychologist

Forensic Psychologist

Experimental research

Neuropsychology

Business relations

Human resources

Counselling

Teaching

Mental health nurse

Sport & Exercise Psychology

Desired entry requirements:

GCSE grade B in English and Science.

Where can I find out more about studying Psychology at Broadway?

Ask Ms Smith

Visit

www.aqa.org.uk

OR

www.bps.co.uk

Year 12 Psychology course overview	
Autumn term	
	Content
Week 1	Approaches - Introduction Approaches – Origins & Psychology as a Science
Week 2	Approaches - Learning Theory Approaches - Cognitive Approaches - Biological
Week 3	Social Influence - Types of conformity, Informational and Normative Influence and variables affecting conformity Research Methods- Introduction
Week 4	Social Influence – Conformity to social roles Social Influence – Obedience (situational factors & agentic state)
Week 5	Social Influence – Obedience (dispositional factors) Social Influence – Resistance to Social Influence
Week 6	Social Influence – Minority Influence Social Influence – Social Change
Week 7	Memory- Multi-store model Memory – Types of LTM Research Methods- Experiments Content
Half term	
Winter term 1	
	Content
Week 1	Memory- Working memory model Memory- Theories of forgetting (interference and retrieval failure) Research Methods- Sampling, Reliability & Validity
Week 2	Memory – Factors affecting reliability of EWT Memory – Improving the accuracy of EWT Research Methods- Descriptive statistics, including Graphs & Charts
Week 3	Attachment- Caregiver-infant interactions Attachment – The development of attachment
Week 4	Attachment- Animal Studies Attachment - Theories (Learning)
Week 5	Attachment - Theories (Bowlby's theory) Attachment – Strange Situation
Week 6	Attachment - Cultural variation in attachment Attachment – Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation
Week 7	Attachment – Internal Working Model Research Methods- Research Methods- Observations & Self-report Research Methods- Ethics, Peer review & Economy
Christmas break	
Winter term 2	
	Content
Week 1	Psychopathology- Definitions of Abnormality Psychopathology - Characteristics of disorders
Week 2	Psychopathology - Phobias Psychopathology - Depression
Week 3	Psychopathology – OCD Research Methods- Inferential statistics: The Sign Test
Week 4	Biological - Divisions of the nervous system Biological - Neurons
Week 5	Biological - Endocrine system Biological - Fight or flight
Week 6	Research methods – design experiment
Week 7	Revision of approaches
Half term - Feb	

Spring term 1	
	Content
Week 1	Maths content
Week 2	Testing and therapy
Week 3	Exam techniques
Week 4	Evaluation ladders
Week 5	Evaluation ladders
Week 6	Revision
Easter Break	
Spring term 2	
	Content
Week 1	Revision
Week 2	Revision
Week 3	Revision
Week 4	Revision
Week 5	Revision
Half term - May	
Summer term 1	
	Content
Week 1	Revision
Week 2	Revision
Week 3	Exams start
Week 4	
Week 5	
Week 6	

Summer term 3 weeks	
	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The psychodynamic approach: the role of the unconscious, the structure of personality, that is Id, Ego and Superego, defence mechanisms including repression, denial and displacement, psychosexual stages. • Humanistic Psychology: free will, self-actualisation and Maslow's hierarchy of needs, focus on the self, congruence, the role of conditions of worth. The influence on counselling Psychology. • Comparison of approaches.
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation: motor, somatosensory, visual, auditory and language centres; Broca's and Wernicke's areas, split brain research. • Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma.
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways of studying the brain: scanning techniques, including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI); electroencephalogram (EEGs) and event-related potentials (ERPs); post mortem examinations.
Summer break	
Autumn term	
	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of summer work
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological rhythms: circadian, infradian and ultradian and the difference between these rhythms. The effect of endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers on the sleep/wake cycle.
Week 3	<p>Issues and debates in Psychology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and culture in Psychology – universality and bias. Gender bias including androcentrism and alpha and beta bias; cultural bias, including ethnocentrism and cultural relativism. • Free will and determinism: hard determinism and soft determinism; biological, environmental and psychic determinism. The scientific emphasis on causal explanations.
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature-nurture debate: the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour; the interactionist approach. • Holism and reductionism: levels of explanation in Psychology. Biological reductionism and environmental (stimulus-response) reductionism
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation. • Ethical implications of research studies and theory, including reference to social sensitivity
Week 6	<p>Forensic Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems in defining crime. Ways of measuring crime, including official statistics, victim surveys and offender surveys. • Offender profiling: the top-down approach, including organised and disorganised types of offender; the bottom-up approach, including investigative Psychology; geographical profiling.
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological explanations of offending behaviour: an historical approach (atavistic form); genetics and neural explanations.
Half term	
Winter term 1	
	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological explanations of offending behaviour: Eysenck's theory of the criminal personality; cognitive explanations; level of moral reasoning and cognitive distortions, including hostile attribution bias and minimalisation; differential association theory; psychodynamic explanations.

Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dealing with offending behaviour: the aims of custodial sentencing and the psychological effects of custodial sentencing. Recidivism. Behaviour modification in custody. Anger management and restorative justice programmes.
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research methods week
Week 4	Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences, including the relationship between sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships: self-disclosure; physical attractiveness, including the matching hypothesis; filter theory, including social demography, similarity in attitudes and complementarity.
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories of romantic relationships: social exchange theory, equity theory and Rusbult's investment model of commitment, satisfaction, comparison with alternatives and investment.
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duck's phase model of relationship breakdown: intra-psychic, dyadic, social and grave dressing phases.
Christmas break	
Winter term 2	
Content	
Week 1	Exam week
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual relationships in social media: self-disclosure in virtual relationships; effects of absence of gating on the nature of virtual relationships.
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parasocial relationships: levels of parasocial relationships, the absorption addiction model and the attachment theory explanation.
Week 4	Schizophrenia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification of schizophrenia. Positive symptoms of schizophrenia, including hallucinations and delusions. Negative symptoms of schizophrenia, including speech poverty and avolition. Reliability and validity in diagnosis and classification of schizophrenia, including reference to comorbidity, culture and gender bias and symptom overlap.
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological explanations for schizophrenia: genetics, the dopamine hypothesis and neural correlates. Psychological explanations for schizophrenia: family dysfunction and cognitive explanations, including dysfunctional thought processing.
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug therapy: typical and atypical antipsychotics. Cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy as used in the treatment of schizophrenia. Token economies as used in the management of schizophrenia.
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of an interactionist approach in explaining and treating schizophrenia; the diathesis-stress model. RM review
Half term - Feb	
Spring term 1	
Content	
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inferential testing Students should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of inferential testing and be familiar with the use of inferential tests. Introduction to statistical testing; the sign test.
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probability and significance: use of statistical tables and critical values in interpretation of significance; Type I and Type II errors. Factors affecting the choice of statistical test, including level of measurement and experimental design. When to use the following tests: Spearman's rho, Pearson's r, Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney, related t-test, unrelated t-test and Chi-Squared test.

Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a study
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Easter Break	
Spring term 2	
	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Half term - May	
Summer term 1	
	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision
Week 3	EXAMS
Week 4	
Week 5	
Week 6	