

# PSYCHOLOGY

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**Exam board:** AQA

**Assessment methods:** 100% Examination

**Length of exams:** 3 x 2 hour papers

**Breakdown of units:**

*Unit 1:* Students will study four compulsory topics, social influence, memory, attachment, and psychopathology. Social influence relates to conformity in society and to social roles and obedience. Psychological research on this area will include studies by Zimbardo and Milgram. Memory will cover research studies on short-term memory and long-term memory and examining the differences between these two memory stores in terms of encoding, capacity and duration. Attachment examines the bond formed between the main caregiver and the child. Psychological research on this will cover animal studies on attachment and Bowlby's maternal deprivation hypothesis. Psychopathology is the study of mental illness and students will study various abnormalities such as OCD, phobias and depression.

*Unit 2:* There will be three compulsory topics to study, approaches to psychology, biopsychology, and research methods. Approaches will include the learning approach such as Pavlov, the cognitive approach, the biological approach such as the role of genes and neurochemistry. In addition, other approaches to be studied will be, the psychodynamic approach founded by Freud and the humanistic approach including Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Biopsychology examines the nervous system, the endocrine system and the brain. Research methods covers the different techniques psychologists use when gathering their data e.g. laboratory experiments.

*Unit 3:* This unit will cover the topics issues and debates, relationships, stress, and addictions. Issues and debates examines the debates nature versus nurture, free will versus determinism and reductionism versus holism. It also covers issues such as gender and culture. Relationships examines evolutionary behaviour, and theories of romantic relationships such as equity theory. Stress examines how the body responds to stress such as the role of hormones, and also looks at stress in the work place and the link between illness and stress. Addictions focuses on nicotine addictions, gambling addictions and treatments such as drugs, and aversion therapy.

**Overlap with other subjects:** There are a number of subjects which overlap with Psychology, in terms of content and content delivery – Biology, Sociology, English Literature, Film Studies to name but a few.

*Updated 15/6/18*



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