

## AS Psychology (WJEC)



**Careers in Psychology:** Trained Psychologist (educational, forensic, clinical occupational, health, counselling etc.), teaching, nursing, police, occupational therapy, health service careers, criminal justice, management (all types). Really any career that involves interaction with others - indeed most careers involve varying degrees of psychology in their training.

**Introduction to Psychology:** What is Psychology? What do Psychologists do? Introduction to the psychological approaches

**Unit 1 Psychology – Past to Present** Written Examination: 1 hour 30 Minutes  
20% of A Level (50% of AS qualification)

### Content

Five approaches covered:

- Biological
- Behaviourist
- Psychodynamic
- Cognitive
- Positive

For each approach you will need to know:

- Assumptions
- Relationship Formation
- Therapy & Evaluations
- Classic Research & Evaluations
- Evaluations of the approach as a whole

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**Unit 2 Psychology: Investigating Behaviour** Written Examination: 1 hour 30 Minutes  
20% of A Level (50% of AS qualification)

Contemporary Debate - Linked to the five approaches in Unit 1

- Biological – The ethics of neuroscience
- Behaviourist – Using conditioning techniques to control the behaviour of children
- Psychodynamic – The mother as primary care-giver of an infant
- Cognitive – Reliability of eyewitness testimony (including children)
- Positive – Relevance of positive psychology in today's society

Principles of Research - Research methods & how psychologists design and carry out research. Knowledge, understanding & evaluation of two influential research studies in Psychology:

- Social Psychology – S. Milgram (1963) – Behavioural Study of Obedience. *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 67, 371-8
- Developmental Psychology – L. Kohlberg (1968) – The child as a moral philosopher. *Psychology Today*, 2, 25-30



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### Unit 3

#### Psychology: Implications in the Real World

- Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 40% of A Level qualification

Having learnt about the various psychological approaches in Unit 1, you are expected to apply this knowledge and understanding to human / animal behaviours. You should be able to explain and draw conclusions about the possible causes of these behaviours.

#### Section A: The study of behaviours

You will study three nominated behaviours. For each behaviour it will be necessary for you to:

- know the characteristics of the behaviour
- know and understand biological, individual differences and social psychological explanations for the behaviour
- evaluate the biological, individual differences and social psychological explanations of the behaviour
- apply the explanations to methods of modifying the behaviour
- know and understand the methods of modifying the behaviour
- evaluate the methods of modifying the behaviour.

#### Section B: Controversies

You will explore five controversies that continue to pose challenges for psychology. These controversies will draw on knowledge and content already covered. For each controversy it will be necessary for you to:

- understand the issue and why it is controversial
- apply knowledge and understanding to controversies in psychology
- make judgements and come to conclusions about the controversies from a psychological perspective.

### Unit 4

#### Psychology: Applied Research Methods

- Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 20% of A Level qualification

#### Section A: Personal investigations

The two investigations required each year you will be expected to apply knowledge of research methods to each investigation.

#### Section B: Application of research methods to novel scenarios

You will be expected to apply knowledge and understanding of research methods to novel research scenarios. You will be expected to make judgements on the details of psychological research.