



AQA A Level Psychology

Year 1



Learning Journey 2026-2027

Course Structure

WEEK	Teacher 1	WEEK	Teacher 2
1	Introduction to Psychology	1	Introduction to Psychology
2 - 11	Approaches in Psychology The different explanations for behaviour, including; social learning theory, behaviourist, biological, cognitive, psychodynamic and humanistic approaches.	2 - 7	Research Methods How experiments & observations are carried out and the different methods used.
12 – 25	Biopsychology How the different systems within the body influence behaviour. The different perspectives on the brain and ways that we can study it.	9 – 18	Social Influence Why do people obey and conform? Ethical issues with studying Social Psychology
19-20	PPE #1	19-20	PPE #1
26 - 35	Clinical Psychology and Mental Health Defining in the field of mental health Treating mental health disorders 	21 - 25	Research Methods - Reliability, Validity and Control - Experimental Design - Observational Design
36 – 40	Issues & Debates - Issues & Debates - Free-will & Determinism - Nature Nurture - Holism & Reductionism - Idiographic & Nomothetic Social Sensitivity	26 – 35	Memory Factors that influence memory. Techniques lawyers use to influence the memories of those giving evidence. 
41-42	PPE #2	41-42	PPE #2
43 - 46	Research Methods - Sampling - Correlations - Peer Review Economic Implications	36 - 46	Attachment How children build relationships. What can go wrong? 

Assessment

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (exam)	Paper 2: Psychology in Context (exam)	Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (exam)
What's assessed? - All Paper 1 subject content: - Social Influence, - Attachment, - Memory - Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	What's assessed? All Paper 2 subject content: - Approaches, - Biopsychology & - Research Methods.	What's assessed? All Paper 3 subject content: - Issues & Debates, - Topic 1 (Relationships), - Topic 2 (Schizophrenia), - Topic 3 (Forensic Psychology).
How is it assessed? - Written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A Level course	How is it assessed? - Written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A Level course	How is it assessed? - Written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A Level course
What type of questions? - Multiple choice questions - Short answer questions - Extended writing	What type of questions? - Multiple choice questions - Short answer questions - Extended writing	What type of questions? - Multiple choice questions - Short answer questions - Extended writing