



EXAM STRUCTURE

For **AQA Psychology** both the AS and A Level qualifications are linear which means that students will sit their exams at the end of the course. Most students are entered for the full A Level so will sit all three of their exams at the end of their two years of study.

AS LEVEL

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (1hr 30mins)

72 marks (50% AS grade)

Content covers: **Social Influence, Memory and Attachment**

Section A: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section B: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section C: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Paper 2: Psychology in Context (1hr 30mins)

72 marks (50% AS grade)

Content Covers: **Approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology and Research Methods**

Section A: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section B: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section C: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, methods and ethical issues in context. They will also have to apply this to a range of contexts and analyse, interpret and evaluate these ideas in detail. With any therapies or treatments they should be able to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of each one. Their knowledge and understanding of research methods and mathematical skills is assessed through practical research involved with the designing and conducting of research studies and analysing and interpreting data.

All skills are assessed using standardised criteria known as **Assessment Objectives**. At A level there are three objectives: AO1, AO2 and AO3. These are set by Ofqual and are the same across all AS and A-level Psychology specifications and all exam boards. Exams measure how well students achieve these objectives.

- **AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding** of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures.
- **AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding** of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures: in a theoretical context, in a practical context, when handling qualitative data and when handling quantitative data.
- **AO3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate** scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to: make judgements and reach conclusions, develop and refine practical design and procedures.



A LEVEL

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (2hrs)

96 marks (33.3% A Level grade)

Content covers: **Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology**

Section A: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section B: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section C: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section D: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Paper 2: Psychology in Context (2hrs)

96 marks (33.3% A Level grade)

Content Covers: **Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods**

Section A: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section B: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section C: **48 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (2hrs)

96 marks (33.3% A Level grade)

Content Covers: **Issues and Debates, One from Relationships, Gender and Cognition & Development (Option 1), One from Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour and Stress (Option 2), One from Aggression, Forensic Psychology and Addiction (Option 3).**

Section A: **24 marks** – Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section B: **24 marks** – **One topic from Option 1** - Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section C: **24 marks** – **One topic from Option 2** - Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

Section D: **24 marks** – **One topic from Option 3** - Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer Questions and Extended Writing

