



EXAM STRUCTURE

For **Edexcel 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: Social and Cognitive Psychology (1hr30mins)

70 marks (50% AS grade)

Content covers: **Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology**

Section A: **29 marks** – Mixed question types on Social Psychology

Section B: **29 marks** – Mixed question types on Cognitive Psychology

Section C: **12 marks** – One extended response question covering both Social and Cognitive Psychology

Paper 2: Biological Psychology and Learning Theories (1hr 30mins)

70 marks (50% AS grade)

Content Covers: **Biological Psychology and Learning Theories**

Section A: **29 marks** – Mixed question types on Biological Psychology

Section B: **29 marks** – Mixed question types on Learning Theories

Section C: **12 marks** – One extended response question covering both Biological Psychology and Learning Theories

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students should know, understand, apply, critically analyse and evaluate content in the following topic areas, performing procedures and making connections where appropriate. 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: Foundations in Psychology (2hrs)

90 marks (35% A Level grade)

Content covers: **Social, Cognitive, Biological Psychology, Learning Theories, Issues and Debates**

Sections A–D have a total of 70 marks and comprise of mixed question types, including stimulus response and short answer questions, and cover the topic areas as follows:

Section A: Social Psychology

Section B: Cognitive Psychology

Section C: Biological Psychology

Section D: Learning Theories

Section E: Issues and Debates (20 marks and comprises two extended response questions, covering the topic area of Issues and Debates in Psychology)

Paper 2: Applications of Psychology (2hrs)

90 marks (35% A Level grade)

Content Covers: **Applications of Psychology; Clinical, Criminological/ Child/ Health**

Section A: 54 marks – Comprise of mixed question types; data-response and short-answer questions and a 20-mark essay covering the topic area of Clinical Psychology

Section B: 36 marks – One choice from the three options - comprises mixed question types, including data, response, short-answer and extended response questions

Paper 3: Psychological Skills (2hrs)

80 marks (30% A Level grade)

Content Covers: Methods, Synoptic Review of Studies, Issues and Debates

Section A: 24 marks – Comprises mixed question types, including data response and short-answer questions, covering the topic area of research methods

Section B: 24 marks – Comprises two extended response questions based on psychological studies given in Topics 1–4

Section C: 32 marks – Comprises two extended response questions, covering the topic area of Issues and Debates in Psychology

