

AS/A2 PSYCHOLOGY - TGGS

Examination Board: AQA (A) 2180

Entrance Requirements

Grade B or above in English Language or Literature.
AND

Grade B or above in Mathematics
AND

Grade B or above in both Core and Additional Science
If single Science students, two grade Bs in two of the three Sciences.

THE COURSE

You will not need to have studied Psychology at GCSE level. You will need to enjoy reading, have an interest in human behaviour and be able to write lucidly. It will be beneficial if you have a reasonable degree of competence in Mathematics and Science (especially Human Biology).

AS

A topic from each of the main areas of Psychology will be covered:

Cognitive Psychology: Memory including eye-witness testimony and strategies for memory improvement.

Developmental Psychology: Early social development including attachment, consequences of separation and deprivation and the effects of day care.

Research Methods: including experiments (laboratory and field), correlational analysis, observational techniques, questionnaires, interviews and case studies.

Biological Psychology: Stress including stress as a bodily response, factors affecting stress, stress management techniques.

Social Psychology: Social Influence including majority and minority influence, obedience to authority and independence

Psychopathology: Abnormal behaviour including defining abnormality, explanations of abnormality (biological and psychological) and therapies.

A2 Level

3 sections selected from the following range of topics:

Biological Rhythms including sleep states and disorders of sleep.

Visual Perception including the development of perception, theories of perception, face recognition and visual agnosias.

Relationships including the formation, maintenance and breakdown of romantic relationships, human reproductive behaviour and effects of early experience and culture on adult relationships.

Aggression including social-psychological explanations, biological explanations and aggression as an adaptive response.

Eating Behaviour including attitudes to food, dieting, role of biological mechanisms and eating disorders.

Gender including psychological explanations of gender development, biological influences and the social contexts of gender.

Learning & Intelligence including theories of intelligence, animal learning and intelligence, genetic and environmental influences on intelligence.

Cognitive Development including the development of thinking, moral understanding and social cognition (theory of mind and perspective taking)

PLUS - The following 3 compulsory sections:

Psychopathology: Choice of one psychological disorder (schizophrenia/ depression/ phobia/ obsessive-compulsive disorder) for which candidates should be familiar with the following: Clinical characteristics, biological and psychological approaches to explaining and treating the condition.

Psychology in Action: Choice of one of the following areas:

1. Media Psychology including media influences on social behaviour, persuasion and attitude change and the psychology of 'celebrity'.
2. Addictive Behaviour including models of addictive behaviour, factors affecting addiction and reducing addictive behaviour.
3. Anomalistic Psychology including ESP and psychokinesis, deception and superstition, psychic healing, mediumship and 'out of body' experiences.

Psychological Research and Scientific Method in which candidates are expected to display the following skills: understanding of the application of the scientific method in psychology, design investigations, analyse and interpret data and report on practical investigations.

ASSESSMENT

AS – 2 written papers (1.5 hours each) consisting of structured, compulsory questions.

A2 – 2 written papers (1.5 and 2 hours) consisting of essay style questions.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Biology, English Literature, Religious Studies, Media Studies, Physical Education and many more.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Forensic Psychology and Criminology, Psychiatric Nursing, Occupational Therapy, plus any career which involves working with people such as: teaching, social work, personnel, police, law, management, medicine, nursing, journalism, retail, etc.

