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# PSYCHOLOGY

## AQA Specification

One of the founders of modern psychology, William James 1890, defined psychology as *'the science of mental life'* and this definition is still valid today. However, in addition to the mind or brain, psychologists also study **behaviour** and are interested in how organisms (usually people) use their mental abilities to operate in the world around them.

The aims of the psychology course at AS and A2 level are to:

- develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, psychology
- introduce students to the key areas in the study of psychology
- develop a knowledge and understanding of science

## AS LEVEL

At AS Level there are two equally weighted units

<b>UNIT 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTORY TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY</b> 50% of total AS marks, 1 ½ hour written paper
<b>CONTENT</b>	Social Influence; Memory and Attachment
<b>UNIT 2</b>	<b>PSYCHOLOGY IN CONTEXT</b> 50% of total AS marks, 1 ½ hour written paper
<b>CONTENT</b>	Approaches in Psychology with biopsychology; Psychopathology and Research Methods

## A LEVEL

<b>UNIT 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTORY TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY</b> 33.3% of total A level marks, 2 hour written paper
<b>CONTENT</b>	Social Influence; Memory; Attachment and Psychopathology
<b>UNIT 2</b>	<b>PSYCHOLOGY IN CONTEXT</b> 33.3% of total A level marks, 2 hour written paper
<b>CONTENT</b>	Approaches, Biopsychology and Research Methods
<b>UNIT 3</b>	<b>ISSUES AND OPTIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY</b> 33.3% of total A level marks, 2 hour written paper
<b>CONTENT</b>	Issues and debates in Psychology; Cognition and development; Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology

The reformed A level Psychology is now a member of the science suite of A level subject and it combines well with both sciences and humanities. It is a very useful introduction for anyone who wants to study the social sciences at university. There are an increasing number of areas that require a psychology specialist, including Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Educational Psychology and Organisational Psychology. A pre-requisite for any of these vocational areas is a recognised psychology degree for which 'A' Level psychology is a thorough introduction. Psychology is also of benefit to a wide range of other professions including medicine, teaching and business; and is recommended to anyone who is interested in *'what makes people tick'*.