



Psychology (OCR)

A Level Psychology (OCR) H567 Content and Assessment

The course is divided into **3 key areas**, each with a written examination.

Research methods (H567-01) - 90 marks - 2 hour written examination (30%)

You will be planning, conducting, analysing and reporting psychological research across a range of experimental and non-experimental methodologies and techniques. This will give students the opportunity to learn how to apply psychology research in action.

Psychological themes through Core Studies (H567-02) -150 marks – 2 hour written examination (35%)

Students build knowledge and understanding of 20 psychology studies, demonstrating evaluation skills and an appreciation of wider psychological approaches/perspectives, theories, issues and debates. Students make comparisons and distinctions between Core studies (a classical study and a contemporary one) and examine the broader context of general debates within psychology. Students will also be assessed on the practical applications of psychology. Students will review psychology of the everyday (in newspapers, magazines, TV programmes etc.) and apply key theories from a novel source.

Applied psychology (H567-03) - 105 marks – 2 hour written examination (35%)

Students will cover one compulsory unit (Issues in Mental Health) and 2 further subjects (Criminal Psychology and Environmental Psychology). Issues covered will include; the historical context of diagnosis, what makes us mad? And characteristics of mental health disorders such as Schizophrenia and Phobias. Furthermore, students will review the key debates in psychology such as the effect of nature v nurture, do humans truly have free will or is our behaviour determined by other forces?

Key expectations of the A level student:

More time – students will be expected to dedicate more hours away from the lessons on the subject to consolidate learning – rather than having re-cap lessons.

Independence- Some topics will be taught independently and there will be an expectation that some content is self-taught (or taught by others) and assessed through end of unit tests. Greater focus on **timed**

assessments – students need to be better prepared for greater assessment at A2 with more timed assessments

Evaluative skills – A level requires application of knowledge, in particular evaluative skills of key theories, studies and comparison of these.

Teaching:

There are 3 examinations at A level and students will have 2 teachers covering the various topic areas. There is an expectation that students will pre-prepare for lessons with students required to work more independently, with guidance being given by teachers about what should be covered in addition to lesson content to consolidate learning. For example, students will be expected to read full articles of the studies covered (located on Bloodle) rather than simply rely on text book summaries

The Future

Studying psychology enables students to think critically, analyse and evaluate. The course will therefore provide an excellent grounding in preparation for higher education and an awareness of how to apply psychology to everyday life. As such an A level in psychology provides an excellent background for careers in the legal profession, police force, medicine, teaching, management, advertising and marketing.



Independent Learning

Independent learning tasks in Psychology

<p>1. To be successful in Psychology you need to be independent! That means not just attending lessons and doing set homework. Do the following activities regularly and you will see an improvement in your grades!</p> <p>Make condensed notes from your booklets - this will embed your learning of the subject.</p> <p>Follow us on Twitter: BCS Oldham Psychol to keep up-to-date with everything Psychological!</p>	
<p>2. Access the stretch and challenge material on bloodle - this material is for those aspiring for an A*/A (which you all should be)</p>	
<p>3. Read the <i>Psychology Review</i> magazine. This contains subject specific information relevant to your course, plus it is written by examiners and gives hints and tips on exam technique. The link is on the Psychology Bloodle page.</p>	
<p>4. Find the full articles of studies you are looking at, read these and add to the notes given to you by your teacher. Investigate further on the internet and add print-offs to your notes at relevant points.</p>	
<p>5. Listen to the Radio! Radio 4 has some excellent programmes dedicated to Psychology. Some really good places to start include; “All in the Mind” and “Am I Normal” Look for the links on Bloodle – or use the Radio 4 webpage to listen again to previous episodes.</p>	