



IB Psychology HL and SL

If you have ever wondered “Why did they just do that?”, then you are interested in Psychology. Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes. Students will learn to understand biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behaviour and explore alternative explanations for it. They will learn how to use diverse methods of psychological inquiry and how ethical practices are upheld within the inquiry process. The course also aims to develop awareness of how contemporary research findings can be better applied to understanding human behaviour. Students will need to develop the capacity to identify, critically analyse and evaluate theories, concepts and arguments about the nature of individuals and society. The skills to undertake psychology inquiry through testing hypotheses, data collection, analysis and interpretation will be acquired.

Content

The course comprises of 3 parts for SL and 4 parts for HL as below.

Part 1 – Core

The study of the core provides a foundation and overview of psychology, comprising the study of the biological approach, cognitive approach and sociocultural approach, with a focus on the fundamental influences that determine human behaviour.

Part 2 – Options

There are five options, ONE is studied at SL and TWO at HL. These allow the students an opportunity to study a specialisation in psychology:

- Abnormal psychology
- Human relationships

Part 3 – Approaches to research (HL only)

Students study and critically evaluate cases and methods of research.

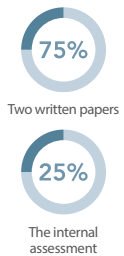
Part 4 – Experimental study

Students plan and execute an experimental study to produce a report that is internally assessed.

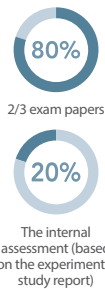
Assessment

The course is assessed both externally (80%) and internally (20%). The external assessment takes the form of 2/3 exam papers depending on whether studying at SL or HL; for HL Paper 1 (40%) is a 2hr paper comprising of questions and an essay; Paper 2 (20%) is a 2hr paper requiring 2 essays to be written from a choice of 15 and Paper 3 (20%), taken at HL only is 1hr, comprising of 3 questions that are to be answered. The internal assessment is based on the experimental study report. For SL internal assessment (25%), Paper 1 (50%) and Paper 2 (25%)

Standard level



Higher level



A Level Psychology

Exam Board: AQA

Psychology is a fascinating subject for anyone interested in understanding human behaviour. It is a multi-disciplinary subject involving scientific analysis, experimentation, case studies and other research techniques. It looks at the ways people use their mental abilities to operate in the world around them. It is a fast growing subject at all levels; it is popular both at university and attractive to employers. Psychology is especially useful as it overlaps the boundary between Science and the Humanities, thus indicating the possession of skills in both areas. The course covers the major areas of Psychology including social psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, psychopathology and biopsychology.

Content

Compulsory Topics

1 Social influence	5 Approaches in Psychology
2 Memory	6 Biopsychology
3 Attachment	7 Research methods
4 Psychopathology	8 Issues and debates in Psychology

Optional Topics

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
9 Relationships	12 Schizophrenia	15 Aggression
10 Gender	13 Eating behaviour	16 Forensic Psychology
11 Cognition and development	14 Stress	17 Addiction

Assessment

The A Level course is assessed through three 2 hour written exam papers containing a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions, as follows:

- Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (33.3%, covering topics 1-4 above).
- Paper 2: Psychology in Context (33.3%, covering topics 5-7 above).
- Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (33.3%, covering topic 8 plus 1 topic from each of the options above).

These papers are all taken at the end of the upper sixth.

