**Psychology 2015 – New Specification**

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|  | AS Level (2015-16) | A Level (2015-17) |
| Unit 1 | **Introductory topics in Psychology*** Social influence
* Memory
* Attachment
 | **Introductory topics in Psychology*** Social influence
* Memory
* Attachment
* Psychopathology
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| Unit 2 | **Psychology in context*** Approaches in Psychology
* Biopsychology
* Psychopathology
* Research methods
 | **Psychology in context*** Approaches in Psychology
* Biopsychology
* Research methods
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| Unit 3 | **N/A** | **Issues and options in Psychology*** Issues and debates in Psychology
* Gender
* Stress
* Forensic Psychology
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| Social influence* Types and explanations of conformity
* Conformity to social roles
* Explanations of obedience
* Explanations of resistance to social influence
* Minority influence
* Social influence and social control
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| Memory* Models of memory
* Types of long term memory
* Explanations of forgetting
* Factors affecting eyewitness testimony
* Improving eyewitness testimony
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| Attachment* Caregiver-infant interactions
* Animal studies of attachment
* Explanations of attachment
* Types of attachment
* Cultural variations in attachment
* Maternal deprivation
* Influence of early attachment
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| Psychopathology* Definitions of abnormality
* The characteristics of depression, OCD and phobias
* The behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias
* The cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression
* The biological approach to explaining and treating OCD
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| Approaches in Psychology* The origins of psychology
* Learning approaches
* The cognitive approach
* The biological approach
* The psychodynamic approach (A-level only)
* Humanist psychology (A-level only)
* Comparison of approaches (A-level only)
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| Biopsychology* The divisions of the nervous system
* The structure and function of neurons
* The function of the endocrine system (glands and hormones)
* The fight or flight response
* Localisation of function of the brain (A-level only)
* Ways of studying the brain (A-level only)
* Biological rhythms (A-level only)
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| Research methodsKnowledge, understanding, strengths and limitations of:* Laboratory, field, natural and quasi-experiments
* Observational methods
* Questionnaires and interviews
* Correlational analysis
* Content analysis (A-level only)
* Case studies (A-level only)

Scientific processes* How psychological research is planned, designed and evaluated (More depth for full A-level)
* Ethics
* Features of science (A-level only)
* Reporting psychological investigations (A-level only)

Data handling and analysis* Types of data
* Descriptive statistics
* Use of graphs, tables etc.
* Distributions
* Levels of measurement (A-level only)
* Content analysis (A-level only)
* Correlations(A-level only)

Inferential testing (A-level only)* Probability and significance
* Type I and Type II errors
* Use of Spearman’s rho, Pearson’s r, Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney, related t-test, unrelated t-test and Chi-Squared test.
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| Issues and debates in Psychology (A-level only)* Gender and culture in psychology
* Free will and determinism
* The nature-nurture debate
* Holism and reductionism
* Idiographic and nomothetic approaches
* Ethical implications of research studies and theory
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| Gender (A-level only)* Sex and gender and sex-role stereotypes
* The role of chromosomes and hormones in sex and gender
* Cognitive explanations of gender development
* Psychodynamic explanation of gender development
* Social learning theory as applied to gender development
* Atypical gender development - gender identity disorder
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| Stress (A-level only)* The physiology of stress
* The role of stress in illness
* Sources of stress
* Measuring stress
* Individual differences in stress
* Managing and coping with stress
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| Forensic Psychology (A-level only)* Problems in defining crime and ways of measuring crime
* Offender profiling
* Biological explanations of offending behaviour
* Psychological explanations of offending behaviour
* Dealing with offending behaviour
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