**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 |
| Unit 2 | **Psychology in context**   * Approaches in Psychology * Biopsychology * Psychopathology * Research methods | **Psychology in context**   * Approaches in Psychology * Biopsychology * Research methods |
| Unit 3 | **N/A** | **Issues and options in Psychology**   * Issues and debates in Psychology * Gender * Stress * Forensic Psychology |
| 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 | | |
| Memory   * Models of memory * Types of long term memory * Explanations of forgetting * Factors affecting eyewitness testimony * Improving eyewitness testimony | | |
| Attachment   * Caregiver-infant interactions * Animal studies of attachment * Explanations of attachment * Types of attachment * Cultural variations in attachment * Maternal deprivation * Influence of early attachment | | |
| 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 | | |
| 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) | | |
| 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) | | |
| Research methods  Knowledge, 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. | | |
| 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 | | |
| 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 | | |
| 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 | | |
| 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 | | |