

Psychology A Level - Exam Board: AQA

Exam Overview:

The Psychology A Level course is assessed by three written examinations, that take place at the end of year 13.

- **Paper 1 – Introductory topics in Psychology - 2 hours – 33.3% of A Level**
- **Paper 2 – Psychology in context - 2 hours – 33.3% of A Level**
- **Paper 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology - 2 hours – 33.3% of A Level**

Guide to Exam Papers:

Paper 1 – Introductory topics in Psychology

This is a two-hour paper which is worth a total of 96 marks. There are four sections within the paper that are each worth 24 marks. You should aim to spend 30 minutes on each section.

There will be a variety of multiple choice, short answer, and extended writing questions in this paper. The extended writing question(s) will be worth a maximum of 16 marks per question. There is no fixed number of extended writing questions in a paper.

Paper 2 – Psychology in context

This is a two-hour paper which is worth a total of 96 marks. There are three sections within this paper two of which are worth 24 marks, the third section (research methods) is double weighted and worth 48 marks. You should aim to spend 30 minutes on sections A and B and one hour on section C.

There will be a variety of multiple choice, short answer, and extended writing questions in this paper. The extended writing question(s) will be worth a maximum of 16 marks per question. There is no fixed number of extended writing questions in a paper.

Paper 3 – Issues and options in Psychology

This is a two-hour paper which is worth a total of 96 marks. There are four sections within the paper that are each worth 24 marks. You should aim to spend 30 minutes on each section.

Section A is compulsory you must answer all questions in this section. You should pick one topic to complete from section B, one topic to complete from section C and one topic to complete from section D. You should only choose the topics you have been taught. You should answer all questions on the topics you have been taught.

There will be a variety of multiple choice, short answer, and extended writing questions in this paper. The extended writing question(s) will be worth a maximum of 16 marks per question. There is no fixed number of extended writing questions in a paper.

Examination Y12 Summer 2021 Key Topics

You will only be completing paper 1. It will be a two-hour paper which is worth a total of 96 marks. There are four sections within the paper that are each worth 24 marks. You should aim to spend 30 minutes on each section.

Key Topics that you must revise are:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Look carefully at the specification, you have a copy at the front of each section. You should be familiar with all the key terminology on the specification, as anything that is named on the specification could be included in an exam question.

It is important that you look carefully at the command word(s) in the question(s) and use them to identify the assessment objective that is being examined by the question. Your answer should focus on addressing the relevant assessment objectives.

Please be reminded that research methods questions can come up in any topic area and so it is important that you revise this content too.

Useful Websites:

- <https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html>
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>
- <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>
- <https://kuizical.com/?questions=>

Useful resources:

- **Google Classroom** – All resources, and practice papers have been placed on Google Classroom for you to use.
- **Your folder** – All content is covered in your booklets. **This is the only resource you really need.**
- <https://www.illuminatepublishing.com/product/aqa-psychology-for-a-level-year-1-as-revision-guide-2nd-edition>
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/store/a-level-psychology-linear-revision-flashcards-core-topics-aqa>

Useful revision tips and specific revision and preparation guidance:

Start revision NOW – you should already have a wealth of revision resources prepared such as flash cards, mind maps, essay plans etc. Use the weeks leading up to the continuance exams to test yourself on this content.

- **Google Classroom** – All resources have been placed on Google Classroom for you to use.
- Create 'Flash cards' focusing on the subject knowledge of any content you haven't already created revision materials for.
- Use the Leitner method to help you to learn the content:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C20EvKtdJwQ>
- Complete as many past paper exam questions as possible you may choose to focus on planning, rather than answering to break them down more clearly.
- Answer past paper questions in full - get used to working under correct timings i.e. 1 mark per minute.
- Spend time analysing mark schemes and get familiar with exam technique.
- Use of quick quizzes to help to recall key points of information.
- Recreating mind maps from memory helps to identify areas of weakness within a topic.

