

<b>Subject: Psychology</b>	
<b>Examination Board: Edexcel</b>	<b>Specification code: 9PS0</b>
<p><b>Paper 1: Foundations in Psychology</b></p> <p>Weighting: 35%</p> <p>2 hour written paper</p>	<p>Assessment is via a written paper with questions on four approaches to Psychology; the cognitive approach, the social approach, the learning approach and the biological approach. Topics include memory, obedience, classical-conditioning, and the central nervous system. Practical investigations are undertaken for each approach. Students are not expected to submit a full write-up, but will have to answer questions about these practicals in the exam. Paper 1 also contains an “issues and debates” section where students will be asked to draw upon their knowledge of the four approaches to address broad conceptual and methodological issues.</p>
<p><b>Paper 2: Applications of Psychology</b></p> <p>Weighting: 35%</p> <p>2 hour written paper</p>	<p>Assessment is via a written paper with questions on Clinical and Child Psychology. The aim of this paper is to enable students to examine how Psychology can be applied to the real world. Topics include schizophrenia and “attachment, deprivation and privation”. Practical investigations are undertaken for each application. Students are not expected to submit a full write-up, but will have to answer questions about these practicals in the exam.</p>
<p><b>Paper 3: Psychological Skills</b></p> <p>Weighting: 30%</p> <p>2 hour written paper</p>	<p>Assessment is via a written paper with questions on research methods, the classic studies covered in papers 1 and 2, plus “issues and debates” questions. This paper is synoptic, which means that students will be asked to draw upon everything they have learnt so far in order to answer these questions.</p>
<p><b>What students can expect from the course:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in classroom re-enactments of theories, models and studies investigated in the course.</li> <li>• Valuable life skills and in-depth knowledge of the reasons behind human behaviour.</li> <li>• Six practical investigations which allow students to explore aspects of Psychology for themselves.</li> <li>• Preparation work for every lesson; including readings, videos, worksheets and general note-taking. The lesson time will then be given over to checking, consolidating and developing the knowledge and understanding students have gained for themselves independently. It is expected that students will spend at least 1 hour outside of class time (at home or during private study) preparing for every lesson.</li> <li>• Terminal exams; all three papers will be sat at the end of Year 13.</li> </ul>	

**Expected GCSE qualifications:**

Although there is now a Psychology GCSE, it is rarely offered in schools. As such, the subjects that best predict success on the A-Level course are English Language (because you have to write essay-style answers), Maths (because there is a significant statistics component to the course), and Biology (because it is the subject most like Psychology at KS4). In order to be successful on the course students must have at least Grade 6 in each of those three subjects.

To find out more, please visit:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/psychology-2015.html>