

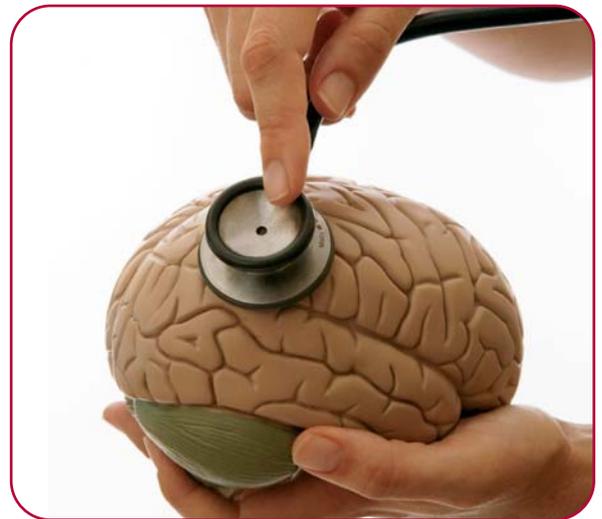


# AS/A Level Psychology

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

**This specification aims to give learners a wide knowledge of psychology and a sound understanding of issues, debates and perspectives.**

This specification provides learners with a good grounding in preparation for higher education and an awareness of how to apply psychology to everyday life and the world around them.



## What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- This revised specification has been developed in consultation with heads of psychology and teachers of psychology to ensure the specification responds to your needs.
- The core studies approach unique to OCR's Psychology specification covers exemplar studies in psychology and demonstrates how learning about behaviour has influenced our thinking today.
- Where necessary the content has been updated and modernised to inspire learning.
- Research elements mostly focus on the most teachable practical aspects at AS and develop these at A2. Although coursework has been removed in accordance with QCA stipulations the OCR specification retains practical elements of teaching and learning and research enjoyed by candidates and tutors alike.
- Unit weightings are designed to be most suitable for flexible delivery – enabling teachers to fit the psychological investigations unit into the first terms teaching so candidates can be entered for the January series and the burden on summer exams is reduced.

## AS Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	<b>G541: Psychological Investigations</b> Candidates become familiar with four techniques for collecting/analysing data: self-report, experiment, observation, correlation. Candidates can conduct their own small investigations and make a record of their activities if they wish.	1 hour exam AS Level – 30% A Level – 15%
Mandatory	<b>G542: Core Studies</b> Candidates build knowledge and understanding of 15 psychology studies, demonstrating evaluation skills and an appreciation of wider psychological approaches/perspectives, theories, issues and debates. Candidates make comparisons and distinctions between core studies and examine the broader context of general debates within psychology.	2 hour exam AS Level – 70% A Level – 35%

## A2 Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	<b>G543: Options in Applied Psychology</b> Candidates have the opportunity to study 2 areas of applied psychology from a list of four: - Forensic Psychology - Health and Clinical Psychology - Psychology of Education - Psychology of Sport and Exercise There is opportunity to learn about applications of psychology and how theory is applied in real life situations.	1 hour 30 mins exam A Level – 25%
Mandatory	<b>G544: Approaches and Research Methods in Psychology</b> This unit is made up of two parts: a) research methods (design of a practical project) and b) structured questions bringing together approaches, perspectives, methods, issues and debates covered throughout the course.	1 hour 30 mins exam A Level – 25%

### How is this qualification assessed?

All units are externally assessed through a timetabled written examination.

Examinations series are available every January and June.

#### Dates of first examinations

##### AS

First examination available from January 2009

##### A2

First examination available from January 2010.

### What support will I receive?

#### Training

A programme of INSET will be available to support the new specification

#### Publishers

Developed in close consultation with OCR, Heinemann is publishing materials for the 2008 Psychology A Level specification.

#### Resources

You will be able to download all of the following resources from the OCR website – [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk).

- Specimen assessment material
- Schemes of work
- Lesson plans
- Exemplar material

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre  
on **01223 553998**, or visit [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk).