



## Sixth Form Subject Guide

# PSYCHOLOGY

### ★★★ CAREERS RELATED TO STUDYING THIS SUBJECT

If you choose to study Psychology you will learn to think like a psychologist. The syllabus provides opportunities to explore key concepts and debates that underpin the subject of psychology and to develop the skills of interpretation, application, analysis, and evaluation while studying a range of stimulating topics and real-world issues. Careers related to the study of Psychology include, among others, clinical psychologist, forensic psychologist, child psychologist, occupational psychologist, sport and exercise psychologist, neuroscientist, psychotherapist.

### ★★★ A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT

Cambridge International AS & A Level Psychology provides candidates with opportunities to consider the approaches, issues and debates and research methodology that underpin all aspects of psychology.

At AS Level candidates study the following four psychological approaches: biological, cognitive, learning, and social. Each approach is exemplified through 12 core studies. The core studies illustrate a wide range of research methods used in psychology, such as experiments, self-reports, case studies, observations, correlations, and longitudinal studies. By exploring the relationship between the content of the study and the research methods, candidates will gain a broad understanding of how psychologists study experiences and behaviours and why the research took place.

Candidates for Cambridge International A Level Psychology study the AS Level content and two of the following specialist options: clinical psychology, consumer psychology, health psychology, and organisational psychology.

### ★★★ A LEVEL METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

| Assessment Component                                                                                                | Weighting |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
|                                                                                                                     | AS Level  | A Level |
| <b>Paper 1 &amp; Paper 3: Approaches, Issues and Debates</b><br>(1 hour 30 minutes)                                 | 50%       | 25%     |
| <b>Paper 2 Research Methods</b><br>(1 hour 30 minutes)                                                              | 50%       | 25%     |
| <b>Paper 3 (A Level only)</b><br><b>Specialist Options: Approaches, Issues and Debates</b><br>(1 hour 30 minutes)   | N/A       | 25%     |
| <b>Paper 4 (A Level only)</b><br><b>Specialist Options: Application and Research Methods</b><br>(1 hour 30 minutes) | N/A       | 25%     |

### ★★★ METHODS OF STUDY FOR A LEVEL

The study of Psychology is evidence based and has evolved through a variety of different research approaches, both qualitative and quantitative.

As students are exposed to research, it is important that they understand the advantages and limitations of different approaches in order to critically evaluate the contribution of research studies to the understanding of human behaviour.

Asking questions, challenging assumptions, and critically assessing the methods used by researchers are integral skills in the study of Psychology.

### ★★★ ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEVEL

It is recommended they have achieved a B in Psychology or English at IGCSE/SPM (or equivalent).