

A/S level A Level Psychology

Dr. Brown

A/S Unit One

- **AS Unit 1: Social and Cognitive Psychology *Unit code 6PS01**
- Externally assessed
- Availability: January and June
- First assessment: January 2009
- **40% of the total AS marks**
- **20% of the total GCE marks**
- **Content summary:**
- This unit is designed to introduce the social and cognitive approaches to psychology through the development of key content areas. The unit is divided into two parts,
- *Social Psychology: obedience and prejudice and Cognitive Psychology: memory and forgetting. Within each part, the sections of the unit arise from the content which*
- includes a selection of basic concepts of the social and the cognitive approaches.
- **Assessment:**
- Examination paper of 1 hour 20 minutes duration, consisting of a section of objective test items, a section of short-answer questions and a section of extended writing.

A2 Unit Three

- **Content summary:**
- The aim of this unit is to enable students to study how psychology can be applied to the real world. Each of the four applications within this unit is related to vocational contexts in which a psychology graduate (with the appropriate training) may operate. In this sense, the unit is intended to further contextualise and make real the understanding of approaches. There is a focus on evaluation, assessment, application and comment as well as on knowledge.
- Students must select two of the following four applications:
 - criminological psychology
 - child psychology
 - health psychology: substance misuse
 - sport psychology.
- **Assessment:**
- Examination paper of 1 hour 30 minutes duration, divided into four options, of which students must select two. Each option will consist of short-answer questions and a section of extended writing.

A/S Unit Two

- **Content summary:**
- This unit is designed to introduce three approaches in psychology; the Psychodynamic
- Approach, the Biological Approach and the Learning Approach. This unit aims to develop
- students' understanding of psychological issues of development, individual difference
- and biology through the study of these approaches.
- The unit is designed to enable choice within each approach in the selection of a second
- key study and a key issue relevant to the approach. Within each approach there is the
- requirement for students to conduct a short practical investigation.
- **Assessment:**
- Examination paper of 1 hour 40 minutes duration, consisting of a section of objective
- test items, a section of short-answer questions and a section of extended writing.

A Unit Four

- **Content summary:**
- This unit focuses on the debates between approaches within contemporary psychology.
- In the clinical psychology section of the unit, students study aspects of clinical psychology, which include how different approaches in psychology explain and treat mental health issues.
- In the issues and debates section, students will be asked to draw on other areas of the specification in order to understand conceptual and methodological issues. Students will develop an understanding of how to use theories and evidence from different areas of psychology and apply them to issues.
- **Assessment:**
- Examination paper of 2 hours duration, divided into two sections, one focusing on clinical psychology, one on issues and debates. Each section will consist of short-answer questions and a section of extended writing. Students must answer both parts.