

# Exams & Assessment: AO1 Terms & Skills



This handout will help you to:

- Understand what the AO1 assessment criterion is.
- Identify AO1 exam terms
- Distinguish between the requirements of different AO1 terms

The AQA-A AS specification you are studying assesses your Psychology skills in two different ways. These are:

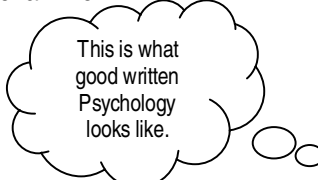
- Assessment Objective 1 (AO1): knowledge and understanding.
- Assessment Objective 2 (AO2): commentary, criticism and evaluation.

## Assessment Objective 1 (AO1)

At AS, just over half of your exam marks are earned by demonstrating AO1 to the examiner. You earn AO1 marks by showing the examiner that you understand and have learned the psychological material laid down in the specification. The specification identifies the psychological concepts, theories, research studies and applications you are required to know about. Anything that is named on the specification can be asked for by the examiner.

### AO1 Terms

The examiners use several different terms to indicate that they want you to demonstrate AO1. Some of these are:

Term	You do this when you...	For example...
<b>Describe</b>	Give a detailed account in clear, concise English of the theory, study or process specified by the examiner.  	The medical model of abnormality is based on the assumption that behavioural abnormality is the result of biological dysfunction. This may take a number of forms, such as structural brain damage (as in general paresis) or neurochemical imbalance (as in some accounts of depression). The causes of the biological dysfunction may be various and could include a genetic (inherited) abnormality (as may be the case in schizophrenia), damage caused by infection (as in the general paresis caused by tertiary syphilis) or environmental toxin (as in the anxiety symptoms associated with organophosphate exposure). The medical model leads clinicians towards treatments pitched at a biological level such as drug therapy or, in extreme cases, surgery.
<b>Outline</b>	Give a less detailed account of a specified theory, study or process, identifying only its main features.	The multistore model of memory is a structural model that divides memory into three storage areas. Information is registered temporarily into limited capacity, modality specific sensory store. Attentional processes transfer some of this to limited capacity and duration STM, when information is retained whilst in use. Through rehearsal, some information may be transferred into semi-permanent LTM, which is assumed to have unlimited capacity.
<b>Define/Explain</b>	Give a clear and concise explanation of the meaning of a term specified by the examiner.	Attachment is a strong, emotional, reciprocal bond between an infant and another person, characterised by separation distress and general orientation towards the attachment figure.