



Subject area:	PSYCHOLOGY (issued January 2019)
Course:	Edexcel Advanced GCE in Psychology
Level:	Level 3

Course Details - What will the course consist of and how will it be delivered?

Your problem solving and practical skills will be greatly developed, increasing your knowledge and understanding of scientific issues within Psychology! It will lead on well to further education courses in Psychology and prepare you for Psychologist career in areas such as Clinical, Counselling, Educational, Forensic, Health and Occupational Health.



Person Specification—is this the right course for you?

Do you enjoy learning new and interesting theories? Have you wondered about aspects of human behaviour? Why we behave the way we do? Then this is the course for you!

Entry on to this course will require you to achieve 4 GCSEs including English and Maths, minimum C grade in Science.

Course Outline

The two-year course is split into 3 units as follows:

Unit 1 – Foundations in Psychology (*Written Examination*)

This unit is broken down into 4 topics. The aim of the first topic is for learners to develop an understanding that social psychology is about aspects of human behaviour that involve the individual's relationship to other persons, groups and society, including cultural influences on behaviour. Individual differences and developmental psychology must be considered when learning about obedience, prejudice, personality and cultural influences on social behaviour.

Topic 2 focuses developing learners understanding of Cognitive psychology. It develops their understanding of the role of cognition/cognitive processes in human behaviour. Processes include perception, memory, selective attention, language and problem solving. The cognitive topic area draws on the likeness of cognitive processing to computer processing.

Topic 3 focuses on biological psychology where learners develop an understanding that biological psychology is about the mechanisms within our body and understand how they affect our behaviour, focusing on aggression. Individual differences and developmental psychology must be considered when learning about issues such as aggression caused by an accident and how the function of structures of the brain can be affected by the environment.

Topic 4 focuses on learning theories learners develop an understanding that learning theories are about learning from the environment and of the effects of conditioning, reinforcement, punishment, the role of reward and social learning on the organism. Individual differences and developmental psychology must be considered when learning about the effect of rewards and punishment on individuals and how children develop through the.

Unit 2 – Applications of Psychology (*Written Examination*)

This unit is broken down into 4 topics that are designed to introduce learners to Clinical, Criminological, Child and Health psychology.

Topic 5 Clinical psychology aims to develop learners understanding that clinical psychology is about explaining and treating mental health issues, and of the different ways of treating them, including counselling and drug treatments.





Topic 6 Criminological psychology aims to develop learners understanding that criminological psychology is about the definition and causes of crime and anti-social behaviour, and of the identification and treatment of offenders undertaken by forensic investigators.

Topic 7 Child psychology aims to develop learners understanding that child psychology is about the development of the individual from before birth to adolescence and beyond, in that what we experience as children affects our later development

Topic 8 Health psychology aims to develop learners understanding that health psychology is about understanding health from a biological, cognitive and social basis and that health psychology is about promoting good health.

Unit 3 – Psychological skills (Written Examination)

The aim of this unit is to enable learners to look at research methods that are used in Psychology. The aim is to develop learner’s ability to Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to:

- make judgements and reach conclusions
- develop and refine practical design and procedures

Further progression on completion of the course—what opportunities could this course lead towards in the future?

- Progression to higher education – Psychology degrees

A Level assessment

Unit number	Unit title	Assessment type
Mandatory		
1	Foundations in psychology	Written Exam (35%)
2	Applications of psychology	Written Exam (35%)
3	Psychological skills	Written Exam (30%)

Other important information

<i>Qualification Level:</i>	Level 3	<i>‘A’ Level equivalence</i>	1
<i>Awarding Body</i>	Edexcel	<i>% Written Exam</i>	100%
<i>Lessons per week</i>	To be confirmed	<i>% Portfolio Evidence</i>	0%
<i>Full course specification</i>	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Psychology/2015/specification-and-sample-assessments/AL-Specification-Psychology.pdf		