

Switching to OCR from AQA

Introduction

The topics within the OCR Psychology qualification have been carefully selected and structured to underpin the knowledge and understanding needed for the next generation of psychologists and mental health workers. A combination of both classic and contemporary core studies encourage students to really think like psychologists and there is a ‘hands-on’ practical approach when studying research methods. Research methods being on Component 1 provides a logical way to deliver the course, helping to aide students’ understanding and learning when moving onto Component 2 and 3.

How the content compares

OCR Psychology	AQA Psychology
<p>Component 1 Research methods and Component 2 Section C – Practical Applications</p> <p>Research methods play a central role in all planning and conduction of psychological research and studies. Students become familiar with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four techniques of collecting and analysing data (self-report, experiment, observation and correlation). • opportunity to create a research portfolio of practical activities experiencing the four techniques of collecting and analysing data • data recording, analysis and presentation 	<p>Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3</p> <p>4.2.3. Research methods 4.2.3.1. Scientific processes 4.2.3.2. Data handling and analysis 4.2.3.3. Inferential testing</p> <p>Like the OCR content, research methods are integrated throughout the topics. Research Methods are explored in both AS Paper 1 and A-Level Paper 2 and Paper 3. Students need to be familiar with different types of techniques in collecting and analysing descriptive and inferential data. Within the research methods section, students need to effectively design, plan research, which meets the question requirements on type of techniques.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> report writing <p>Teachers have told us having this content in Component 1 is an important introduction to build on the foundation of analytical skills required for study of issues and debates and practical applications for Component 2 and examination of issues in mental health and options for Component 3.</p>	
<p>Component 2 Section A: Core Studies</p> <p>If you're looking at condensing the number of studies that students explore, then this section considers five approaches with ten carefully selected classic studies and ten carefully selected contemporary studies. The areas, as well as examples of studies, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social – exploring the classic studies of Milgram and Piliavin et al. cognitive – famous study of Loftus and Palmer on eyewitness testimony developmental – Bandura et al. and the impact of external influences on children's behaviour biological – Sperry's research on split brain phenomenon individual differences approaches – Freud's study on Little Hans 	<p>Paper 1 and Paper 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 Social Influence 3.1.2 Memory 3.1.3 Attachment 3.2.1.1 Biopsychology 3.2.2 Psychopathology 4.2.1. Approaches in Psychology <p>Students are expected to undertake an in-depth study into varied approaches of Psychology. Students consider theories of conformity and obedience, eye witness testimony, understanding of functions of left and right hemispheres of the brain. Similar to OCR, adoption of classic studies of Freud's Little Hans and Bandura's Bobo doll study are considered in the teaching of approaches in psychology.</p>



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<p>Component 2 Section B: Areas, perspectives and debates</p> <p>Learners in this section are encouraged to discuss the inter relationships, links and arising debates between each of the perspectives. In considering research results and findings from each of the twenty core studies, it allows scope for students to build on the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective while also examining the debates and applications each perspective can make towards society.</p> <p>One teacher indicated that when undertaking teaching specific to each study and perspective, students were able to quickly identify the key points of each perspective and see how associated debates arise in discussion of how different from and similar each perspective is.</p>	<p>Paper 2 and Paper 3</p> <p>4.2.1 Approaches in Psychology 4.3.1. Issues and debates in psychology</p> <p>Like the OCR content, students consider the classic approaches and studies related to each perspective and the associated key methodological issues and debates found in the study of each perspective.</p>
<p>Component 3 Section A: Issues in mental Health</p> <p>This section of the OCR specification provides students with an introduction to mental health issues which remain at the heart of the topics considered within this Component. The introduction considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the historical context of mental health • definitions of abnormality • considerations of categorising mental disorders with application to 	<p>Paper 2 and Paper 3</p> <p>3.2.2. Psychopathology (Core) 4.3.5. Schizophrenia (Option) 4.3.6. Eating Behaviour (Option)</p> <p>Definitions of abnormality are explored within Paper 2. Students are expected to be familiar with differing diagnostic systems and the understanding of clinical characteristics and treatments of depression, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and phobias.</p>



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<p>characteristics of an affective disorder, psychotic disorder and an anxiety disorder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> biological – particularly, genetic explanations and brain abnormality explanations of mental illness alternative models – behaviourist, cognitive, humanistic and psychodynamic as explanations to mental illness 	<p>In the option topics, like the OCR content, students consider differing explanations for schizophrenia and eating behaviours, and associated treatments and therapies linked with each perspective.</p>
<p>Component 3: Section B: Option 1 - Child Psychology</p> <p>This section extensively examines the development of children from infancy through the lens of three approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> biological – intelligence and IQ and pre-adult brain development cognitive – perceptual development in babies and impact of education on children’s cognitive capacities social – attachment development and influence of television advertising on children 	<p>Paper 1 and Paper 3 (Options Paper)</p> <p>4.1.3 Attachment (Core) 4.3.4 Cognition and development (Option)</p> <p>Like the OCR content, students are expected to consider the social factors of child development by examining theories of attachment, which focus on the attachment styles as template for later adult relationships.</p> <p>In the option unit, like the OCR content, students focus on cognitive theories and research applications to child development.</p>



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<p>Component 3: Section B: Option 2 - Criminal Psychology</p> <p>In this popular option, students consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biological perspective in understanding what makes a criminal • motivating factors and bias in collection and processing of forensic evidence • collection and use of evidence from witnesses and suspects • jury system • neighbourhoods and zero tolerance policy influence on crime rates • differing punishment and reform techniques as responses to management of criminal behaviour 	<p>Paper 3: Option Paper</p> <p>4.3.9 Forensic psychology</p> <p>Like the OCR content, students are expected to consider the biological perspectives in examining criminal behaviour, biases and problems in examining crime and collection of evidence.</p> <p>Students need to be familiar with the different type of punishments and reform methods used in dealing with criminal behaviour while also critically considering the implications of each type of criminal behaviour management systems.</p> <p>There is no option to study neighbourhoods and zero tolerance policy influences on crime rates.</p>
<p>Component 3 Section B: Option 3 - Environmental Psychology</p> <p>This option focuses on the application of three perspectives to examine the impact of environment on human behaviour and interaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biological – environmental stressors and body clocks in affecting physiological disruption • cognitive - examining behaviours of conservation cognitive overload • social – built environments, territorial and personal space in the work place 	<p>Paper 2 and Paper 3 (Options Paper)</p> <p>3.2.1.1. Biopsychology (Core)</p> <p>4.3.7. Stress (Option)</p> <p>There is no specific section with AQA that examines environment impacts on human behaviour and interaction. Instead the study of environment is interspersed between two sections of Biopsychology and Stress.</p> <p>Like the OCR content, students are expected to examine the influence, disruption and impact of biological clocks on our wellbeing. In the stress option, students are expected to</p>



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<p>can affect our well being</p>	<p>study the role of perceived stressors and environmental stressors on the wellbeing of humans. Both OCR and AQA, expect students to consider strategies in alleviating and reducing stressors to pave a path of improved wellbeing and function.</p>
<p>Component 3 Section B: Option 4 - Sport and Exercise Psychology</p> <p>The focused approach of studying Sports and Exercise Psychology is examined through three popular perspectives which consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biological – optimising arousal and controlling anxiety in sport performance and exploration of benefits of exercise to mental health • cognitive – examining the role of self-efficacy and sports confidence in motivating athletes • social – looking at teams, coaching and leadership as key components in improving team performance 	<p>Paper 3 (Options Paper) 4.3.7. Stress (Option)</p> <p>There is no option to study Sports and Exercise Psychology.</p> <p>Benefits of exercise to alleviate stress and developing effective coping mechanisms, is explored in the Stress option.</p>



AS Assessment

<i>OCR Psychology</i>	<i>Edexcel Psychology</i>
<p><u>AS Level</u> 2 Components 3 hours total assessment time 150 marks</p>	<p><u>AS Level</u> 2 Components 3 hours total assessment time 144 marks</p>
<p>Component 1: Research Methods</p> <p>50% of AS Level Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 75 marks</p> <p>Section A: Multiple choice Section B: Research design and response Section C: Data analysis and interpretation</p>	<p>Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology</p> <p>50% of AS Level Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 72 marks</p> <p>Sections A- C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.</p>
<p>Component 2: Psychological themes through core studies</p> <p>50% of AS Level Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 75 marks</p> <p>Section A: Core studies Section B: Areas, perspectives and debates Section C: Practical applications</p>	<p>Paper 2: Psychology in Context</p> <p>50% of AS Level Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 72 marks</p> <p>Sections A-C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.</p>



A Level Assessment

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<p><u>A Level</u> 3 Components 6 hours total assessment time 300 marks</p>	<p><u>A Level</u> 3 Components 6 hours total assessment time 288 marks</p>
<p>Component 1: Research Methods</p> <p>30% of A Level Written paper 2 hours 90 marks</p> <p>Section A: Multiple choice Section B: Research design and response Section C: Data analysis and interpretation</p>	<p>Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology</p> <p>33.3% of A Level Written paper 2 hours 96 marks</p> <p>Sections A- D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing</p>
<p>Component 2: Psychological themes through core studies</p> <p>35% of A Level. Written paper 2 hours 105 marks</p> <p>Section A: Core studies Section B: Areas, perspectives and debates Section C: Practical applications</p>	<p>Paper 2: Psychology in Context</p> <p>33.3% of A Level. Written paper 2 hours 96 marks</p> <p>Sections A- D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.</p>



OCR Psychology	AQA Psychology
<p>Component 3: Applied psychology</p> <p>35% of A Level Written paper 2 hours 105 marks</p> <p>Section A: Issues in mental health Compulsory questions. These will range from short answer to extended response questions.</p> <p>Section B: Options Learners answer one question from each of the two options they have studied. Each question will have three question parts. Section B has four options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child psychology • Criminal psychology • Environmental psychology • Sport and exercise psychology. 	<p>Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology</p> <p>33.3% of A Level Written paper 2 hours 96 marks</p> <p>Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing. Section B: one topic from option 1, with multiple choice, short answer and extended writing. Section C: one topic from option 2, with multiple choice, short answer and extended writing. Section D: one topic from option 3, with multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.</p>

