

Switching to OCR from Edexcel

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	Edexcel Psychology
<p>Component 1 Research Methods and Component 2 Section C – Practical Applications</p> <p>Research methods plays 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). • construction of research portfolio of practical activities experiencing the four techniques of collecting and analysing data • data recording, analysis and presentation 	<p>Paper 3 Psychological Skills – Section A</p> <p>Research methods is embedded within the content</p> <p>1.5 Practical investigation in Social psychology</p> <p>2.5 Practical investigation in Cognitive psychology</p> <p>3.5 Practical investigation in Biological psychology</p> <p>4.5 Practical investigation in Learning theories</p> <p>5.5 Practical investigation in Clinical psychology</p> <p>6.5 Practical investigation in Criminological investigation (option)</p> <p>7.5 Practical investigation in Child psychology (option)</p> <p>8.5 Practical Investigation in Health</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>psychology (option)</p> <p>Similar to OCR, the emphasis of research methods is a central underpinning to Edexcel's content. Like OCR, students are encouraged to conduct practical activities related to each topic to understand the four techniques of collecting and analysing data within Psychology.</p>
<p>Component 2 Section A: Core Studies</p> <p>If you're looking at condensing the number of studies that students explore, then perhaps consider the teaching of five approaches with only twenty classic studies. These approaches 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 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: Foundations in Psychology</p> <p>Topic 1: Social psychology Topic 2: Cognitive psychology Topic 3: Biological psychology Topic 4: Learning theories</p> <p>Like OCR, the four main tenets of Psychology are explored within the content for Edexcel. Students are to consider an in depth understanding of social theories in obedience, prejudice and to explore contemporary research related to these theories. Similarly, reconstructive memory is considered and the exploration of factors that can affect eyewitness testimony along with examining the classic studies associated with memory.</p> <p>In the study of biological psychology, students are to consider the affects of brain damage and the impact this may have on split brain phenomenon. Similar to OCR, learning theories is an in-depth study of the key points of behaviourist and neo-behaviourist theories.</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 students considering research results and findings from each of the twenty core studies 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 1: Foundations in psychology Paper 3: Psychological Skills Section C</p> <p>1.6 Issues and debates in social psychology 2.6 Issues and debates in cognitive psychology 3.6 Issues and debates in biological psychology 4.6 Issues and debates in learning theories 5.6 Issues and debates in clinical psychology 6.6 Issues and debates in criminological psychology 7.6 Issues and debates in child psychology 8.6 Issues and debates in health psychology 9.3 Issues and debates</p> <p>Similar to OCR, the relevance of analysis and building of critical thinking skills is central to the content of Edexcel. Each topic is associated with adopting a critical stance in analysing the key methodological issues and debates across studies, research and approaches.</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 	<p>Paper 1 – Foundations in psychology Paper 2 – Applications of psychology</p> <p>3.1.7 Individual differences (core) 5.1.1 Diagnosis of mental disorders (option) 5.1.2 Classification systems 5.1.3 Schizophrenia and one other disorder from anorexia nervosa, Obsessive compulsive disorder and unipolar depression 5.1.4 Two treatments: one biological and one from psychological</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considerations of categorising mental disorders with application to characteristics of an affective disorder, psychotic disorder and an anxiety disorder • biological – particularly, genetic explanations and brain abnormality explanations of mental illness • alternative models – behaviourist, cognitive, humanistic and psychodynamic as explanations to mental illness 	<p>Students are expected to consider the origins of mental health diagnosis and classification systems. Similar to OCR, three mental disorders are considered for study to allow students to examine the clinical characteristics and relevant treatment/therapies of each disorder. Students are to conduct a critical appraisal of the relevant and most appropriate form of treatment/therapies. This is dependent on the biological or psychological approaches examined.</p>
<p>Component 3 Section B: Option 1 – Child Psychology</p> <p>This section extensively examines the development of children from birth to adolescence 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 2 – Applications of psychology</p> <p>3.1.8 Developmental psychology</p> <p>7.1.1-7.1.4 – Attachment, deprivation and privation</p> <p>7.1.6 Cross cultural research into attachment types</p> <p>Students are to focus on the social, environmental and cross cultural factors that can affect the development of children. Like OCR, there is a focus on the differing attachment styles, which can affect relationships with others.</p> <p>There are no topics related to biological or cognitive approaches exploring 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 2 – Applications of psychology</p> <p>6.1.1 - 6.1.2 Biological and social explanations of criminal and anti-social behaviour</p> <p>6.1.4. Examining offender and forensic evidence</p> <p>6.1.5 - 6.1.6. Treatments for offenders</p> <p>6.1.7 Factors affecting eyewitness testimony</p> <p>6.1.8 Factors affecting jury decision making and processes</p> <p>Similar to OCR, there is an exploration of examining the risk factors associated with the criminal and explanations of what makes a criminal. Linking to when a crime is reported and examining the variables associated with the nature of the evidence, biases and factors affecting the eyewitness testimony. Like OCR, students are to consider the process and mechanics of the jury system and the possible forms of punishments and reforms that are to be taken into consideration when convicting a criminal.</p>



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<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 and cognitive overload • social – built environments, territorial and personal space in the work place can affect our well being 	<p>There is no option to study Environmental psychology.</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>There is no option to study sport and exercise psychology</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 140 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: Social and cognitive psychology</p> <p>50% of AS Level Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 70 marks</p> <p>Section A: Mixed question types covering social psychology Section B: Mixed question types covering cognitive psychology Section C: Extended writing covering both social and cognitive psychology topic areas.</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: Biological psychology and learning theories</p> <p>50 % of AS Level Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 70 marks</p> <p>Section A: Mixed question types covering biological psychology Section B: Mixed question types covering learning theories Section C: Extended writing covering both biological psychology and learning theories topic areas.</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 260 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: Foundations in psychology</p> <p>35% of A Level Written paper 2 hours 90 marks</p> <p>Sections A-D comprise stimulus and data response questions, short and extended writing responses which cover the topics of social psychology, cognitive psychology, biological psychology and learning theories. Section E: Two extended responses covering issues and debates in psychology.</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: Applications of psychology</p> <p>35% of A Level Written paper 2 hours 90 marks</p> <p>Section A: Data and stimulus responses, short and extended writing responses covering area of clinical psychology. Section B: Data and stimulus responses, short and extended writing responses with a choice from one of three optional units:</p>



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	criminological psychology, child psychology or health 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: Psychological skills</p> <p>30% of A Level Written paper 2 hours 80 marks</p> <p>Section A: Stimulus and data response, and short answered questions, on research methods</p> <p>Section B: Stimulus and data response, short answered questions and one extended response question on classic studies.</p> <p>Section C: Two extended writing responses on the topic of issues and debates in psychology.</p>

