

PSYCHOLOGY

Examination Board Specification: OCR H567

Why Study Psychology?: Psychology asks one key question: why do we behave the way we do? The OCR course is an excellent academic introduction to asking such a question in scientific manner. It focuses on teaching students to become discerning and evaluative practitioners. The course investigates psychological research using five main approaches: Social Psychology (how our behaviour is affected by other people), Developmental Psychology (how our behaviour is affected by our childhood development), Cognitive Psychology (how behaviour can be affected by how the mind processes information) and Physiological Psychology (how our behaviour is affected by our biological and chemical processes). It also considers Individual Differences (how certain behaviours can be regarded as abnormal, such as multiple personality disorder).

Content and Assessment of the Course:

Advanced Level			
Unit 1	Research Methods	2 hour examination	30%
Unit one requires students to have an understanding of how psychologists <i>do</i> psychology. Candidates will need to be adept at using four techniques for collecting/analysing data: experiments, observations, self-report and correlations. In the examination, candidates will be asked to design their own psychological investigation in response to stimulus material. They will then be required to justify the decisions they made. This unit will be similar to unit one in AS, only in a greater detail.			
Unit 2	Psychological Themes through Core Studies	2 hour examination	35%
Unit two requires students to have knowledge and understanding of key pieces of psychological research. Each of the 20 core studies has been chosen to demonstrate the range of subject matter investigated by psychologists and can be partitioned into five distinct approaches to conducting psychological research: physiological, cognitive, social and developmental psychology, and psychology of individual differences. The examination necessitates a candidate to be able to comprehend the reasoning behind a study, make comparisons between classic and contemporary studies, as well as being able to evaluate a study's effectiveness in achieving its research aim. This unit will be similar to unit two in AS, only with a greater number of studies, giving the student a broader understanding of each approach and perspective.			
Unit 3	Applied Psychology	2 hour examination	35%
Unit three requires students gain insight into how psychological research has been applied to investigating particular avenues where psychology can have a real impact. Specifically, students will learn about issues in mental health, along with two of the following four options: child psychology, criminal psychology, environmental psychology and sports and exercise psychology. Each of the above options will have 6 psychological studies, which give students awareness of how psychology has been used to enhance our understanding of the aforementioned fields.			

Entrance Requirements: There are no specific subject requirements although students will be expected to have an appreciation and understanding of scientific research and have the ability to evaluate and synthesise information. The data analysis involved will also necessitate a student to have good mathematical skills (e.g. the students will have to conduct a range of statistical tests by hand (e.g. Mann-Whitney U)). Lastly, and most importantly, students should have a genuine interest in the subject.