

Psychology

Higher

Recommended Entry Requirements

National 5
Psychology

Progression through Psychology

A strong pass at Higher level would provide a university entry level qualification.

Course Content

Individual behaviour

Candidates analyse individual behaviour, investigate topics and learn how these topics can be explained using psychological theories and research evidence. Candidates evaluate and apply theories to show an understanding of individual human behaviour.

Social behaviour

Candidates analyse how interaction with others shapes social behaviour. They investigate psychological explanations for social behaviour, and use research evidence to analyse how the thoughts, feelings and behaviours of individuals are influenced by their social environment. Candidates apply psychological knowledge and understanding to explain examples of everyday social behaviour.

Research

Candidates understand and apply the research process and research methods used in psychology. They develop the skills required to conduct and evaluate psychological research. Candidates also develop numerical skills and an understanding of psychological terminology. This area of study is not assessed in a separate section of the question paper, however questions relating to research can be asked in the individual and social behaviour sections of the question paper. In addition, candidates must carry out research for the assignment.

Skills Developed

The following provides a broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the course:

- analysing and evaluating psychological concepts, theories, and evidence
- applying knowledge and understanding of psychology to analyse and explain human behaviour
- understanding the research process in psychology, including the ability to evaluate methods and explain ethical and scientific standards
- analysing the research process in psychology, including the ability to evaluate methods and explain ethical and scientific standards
- using research evidence to explain human behaviour
- interpreting and evaluating descriptive statistics in psychological research
- using research skills to generate, select, organise, interpret, analyse and evaluate information in psychology
- using communication skills to present information, including a report on psychological research

Assessment

Exam Paper
80 marks

Assignment
40 marks

Related Careers

Commons career paths for students of Psychology include:

- Clinical psychologist
- Counsellor
- Forensic psychologist
- Teacher
- Occupational therapist
- Border Force officer
- Careers adviser
- Detective
- Life coach
- Market researcher
- Special educational needs coordinator (SENCO)

Natalie Portman, Rooney Mara, John Ritter and Gloria Estefan all studied Psychology.

