

AS/A Level Psychology (9698)

Can students take dictionaries into the examination?

Candidates are allowed a simple translation dictionary.

What support materials are available?

Syllabus

Specimen question papers and mark schemes

AS/A level Standards Booklet- - this contains examples of marked student answers to AS and A level questions and has a commentary from senior examiners

Question papers and mark schemes

All the above are available from CIE Publications.

How many hours contact time do you recommend for AS/A level?

Over a two year A level course approximately 5 hours per week of teaching time would be sufficient. Students will be expected to do individual work outside of this time.

I'm having trouble locating some of the Core Study articles referred to in the syllabus. Can you help?

We are unable to send you copies of the Core Study articles listed in the syllabus because of copyright regulations. However, if you are unable to obtain these articles, then there are two texts which are particularly useful in providing the necessary teaching material:

Key Studies in Psychology by Gross, R (Edition 4, 2003)

This book provides a comprehensive account of many (though not all) of the required studies. Some are reproduced in full and others reduced to manageable proportions. The text also contains full evaluations and background notes, and is recommended as being made available to students for reference if it is not selected as a main reader for the course.

ISBN: 0340857854

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton, Hodder Headline, 338 Euston Road, London, NW1 3BH, United Kingdom www.hodderheadline.co.uk

Introducing Psychological Research by Baynard, P & Grayson, A (Edition 2, 2000)

Seventy studies that shape psychology. This book contains summaries and major details relating to all of the prescribed studies and suggests tasks arising from the findings. It is comprehensive in reference and accessible in style.

ISBN: 0333912519

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 6XS, United Kingdom www.palgrave.com

I am teaching AS Psychology for the first time and I'm looking to you for some guidance on the order of teaching topics.

It is up to you which order you choose to teach the studies in the course. However, if you are planning to teach the full A level we would recommend that the Core Studies are taught before the Specialist Choices, even if students take all 3 exams in the same session.

Are there any Psychology conferences for the syllabus?

There are no seminars or conferences specifically arranged for the CIE syllabus, but general support for teaching Psychology can be found from The Association for the Teaching of Psychology (ATP). The ATP is mainly concerned with the teaching of psychology in schools and colleges. It arranges events for teachers and produces a range of helpful publications. Contact details for the ATP are as follows:

The Association for the Teaching of Psychology
c/o The British Psychological Society
St Andrews House
48 Princess Road East
Leicester
LE1 7DR
United Kingdom

In questions such as 'Outline two types of response of abnormal affect due to trauma', should the answer be two different types of abnormalities (mental disorders of this category) or two clusters of symptoms of one mental disorder of this category?

Candidates could give two responses/symptoms for one type of trauma or they could give two symptoms that different responses have in common. For example, 'recurring phenomena' is a general response to trauma - or it could be a symptom of the more specific PTSD. Whatever approach taken by the teacher will be fine; either approach will be marked as correct.

Several of my Psychology students want to sit both the A level and AS level examinations in the June session. However, if they don't do well in the A level paper but do so in their AS level, can they drop the A-level mark and keep the AS level one?

Your students would need to be entered for the A level option. If they fail the A level they would be awarded a compensatory AS providing they had achieved enough marks on Paper 1 and Paper 2 to achieve an AS grade. However, if they achieved a grade on the A level (i.e. did not fail it) but it wasn't as high a grade as they would have liked, they can't then receive an AS. An alternative option that you might wish to consider is entering your candidates for the AS papers in one session, then entering them for the A level papers in a later session and carrying forward the AS mark.

Does the CIE syllabus include any coursework or practical investigations at AS?

You are right about the AS syllabus – there isn't any coursework and the question papers are based on the 20 core studies listed in the syllabus.

Is there any way I could get hold of some mark schemes or sample essays?

In terms of support materials, please refer to our website for a publications order form (<http://www.cie.org.uk/CIE/WebSite/qualificationsandawardshub/orderpublications/orderpublications.jsp>)

The 'Standards Booklet' is a document that contains sample answers, and a senior examiner's commentary on how marks were awarded for these answers.

Other publications available are examiner reports, past papers and mark schemes. When ordering these you will need to quote the session (e.g. November 2005) and the syllabus code 9698. For past papers you will also need to quote the paper numbers, e.g. Paper 1 and Paper 2 for the AS level.

There are specimen papers and mark schemes available on the website at the following link, but please note that the format of Paper 1, Section B is a little different now with 4 parts to each question rather than 3.

Can you suggest any websites that could be used as teaching aids?

General

British Psychological Society www.bps.org.uk/index.cfm

Psychnet UK www.psychnet-uk.com/

Psychology electronic journals and periodicals psych.hanover.edu/Krantz/journal.html

Over 100 psychology links www.geocities.com/CollegePark/8639/psych.html

Personality Tests Free personality tests on the web www.2h.com/personality-tests.html

Physiological Psychology

Crime Times Linking brain dysfunction to disordered/criminal/psychopathic behaviour www.crime-times.org/

Crime Library Case studies and information on offender profiling approaches www.crimelibrary.com/

Introductory Psychology Image Bank Images for teaching the functions of the brain (as well as others); notes on all the core studies and health and education www.mhhe.com/socscience/intro/ibank/set1.htm

University of Iowa P.E.T Imaging Center The University of Iowa Imaging Centre site with information on PET scans and their uses

pet.radiology.uiowa.edu/webpage/Research/CaseStudies/Brain.html

Sleep Quest Site on sleep and sleep disorders, where Dr. Dement gives a weekly commentary. The site also has a "chat with Dr. Dement" opportunity on it

www.sleepquest.com/d_column.html

Splitting the human brain www.indiana.edu/~pietsch/split-brain.html

Cognitive Psychology

The Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute Gardner and Gardner

www.cwu.edu/~cwuchci/

Elizabeth F Loftus Contains the autobiography of Loftus faculty.washington.edu/eloftus/

Autism Society of America Baron Cohen www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer

Sleepnet Dement www.sleepnet.com/

Social Psychology

Stanford News Professor Philip Zimbardo

www2.stanford.edu/dept/news/relaged/970108prisonexp.html

Health

Health Education Board for Scotland You can get information on this site about mental health, alcohol and drug abuse in Scotland www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk/topics/index.htm

Web of Addictions Site with links on drugs and alcohol. Mostly American

www.well.com/user/woa/

Eurocare Statistics about how different European countries deal with alcohol

www.eurocare.org/profiles/

BBCi Health Looks at back pain www.bbc.co.uk/health/backchat/