

New A Level Psychology

H168 and H568 replacing 3876 and 7876

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008.**

This document maps the current A Level Psychology specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Psychology.

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels.

Current specification – mapping the changes

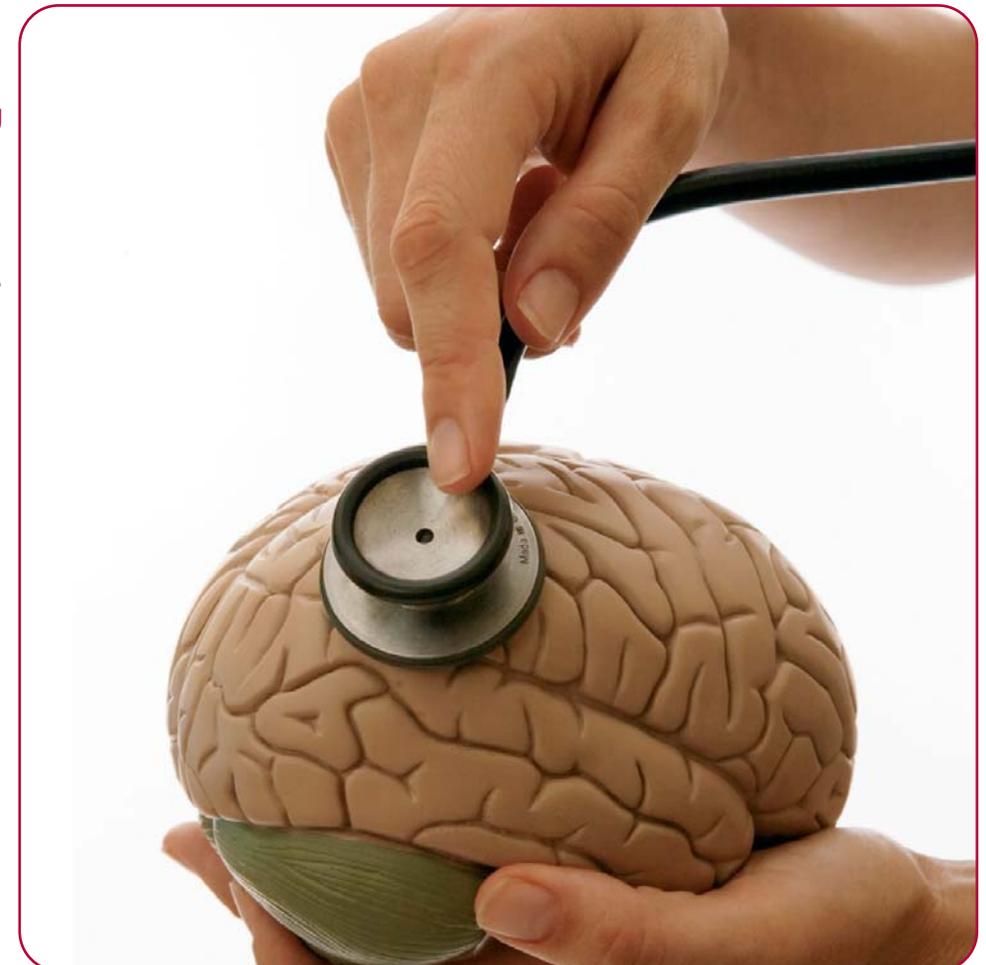
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Outline specification for first teaching September 2008

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QCA have stipulated that:

- Number of units required to achieve GCE A Level Psychology is to be reduced from six to four
- All coursework to be removed from Psychology
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment.



Mapping the changes to the A Level Psychology specification for first teaching September 2008

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Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS Core Studies 1	2540 Mandatory 33.3% (AS) 16.7% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Studies. Short answer exam questions, and 12 mark question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amalgamated into one unit. Core studies reduced from 20 to 15. Some changes to Core Studies list. Less popular studies have been removed. Small number of new studies added. New unit code G542. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA reduction in units Reduction in number of core studies in line with centre feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For a full list of core studies included in the new specification please visit the OCR website.
AS Core Studies 2	2541 Mandatory 33.3% (AS) 16.7% (A Level) 1hr exam				
AS Psychological Investigations	2542 Mandatory 33.3% (AS) 16.7% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical small scale investigations conducted by learners. Portfolio of investigations compiled by candidates. Short and medium answer exam questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates will no longer be allowed to take the portfolio into the exam. Fewer exam questions focused solely on the practical investigations and more questions developing from the investigations. New unit code G541. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with centre feedback. Candidates will be asked questions about their investigations and questions developing from it, as well as questions assessing a wide range of research methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed guidance on teaching approaches and practical exercises to be used within the classroom. Portfolios are provided for candidates to complete.
A2 Psychology Research Report	2543 Mandatory 16.7% (A Level) Coursework				
A2 Psychology and Education	2544 Optional 16.7% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education included in the optional topics at A2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now called Psychology of Education. Question style and type reflects Stretch and Challenge criteria, which means that questions will be more open, encouraging extended writing using a variety of introductions for example 'analyse', 'evaluate' and 'discuss'. Number of sub-topics reduced in line with centre feedback to ensure adequate depth of coverage. New unit code G543. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with centre feedback – centres asked us to provide the most popular options, but with more direction and focus on the topics to be covered within them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on areas to focus learning. A full list of topics can be found in the specification available on the OCR website.

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
A2 Psychology and Health	2545 Optional 16.7% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health included in the optional topics at A2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now called Health and Clinical Psychology. Question style and type reflects Stretch and Challenge criteria, which means that questions will be more open, encouraging extended writing using a variety of introductions for example 'analyse', 'evaluate' and 'discuss'. Number of sub-topics reduced in line with centre feedback to ensure adequate depth of coverage. New unit code G543. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with centre feedback – centres asked us to provide the most popular options, but with more direction and focus on the topics to be covered within them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full list of topics can be found in the specification available on the OCR website.
A2 Psychology and Organisations	2546 Optional 16.7% (A Level) 1.5hr exam		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option has been removed in line with centre feedback. Candidates can select 2 areas for study from unit G542. 'Options in Applied Psychology'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with centre feedback – centres asked us to provide the most popular options, but with more direction and focus on the topics to be covered within them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centres will be advised as to the last re-sit dates for these units as soon as confirmation is received from QCA.
A2 Psychology and Environment	2547 Optional 16.7% (A Level) 1.5hr exam		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option has been removed in line with centre feedback. Candidates can select 2 areas for study from unit G542. 'Options in Applied Psychology'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with centre feedback – centres asked us to provide the most popular options, but with more direction and focus on the topics to be covered within them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centres will be advised as to the last re-sit dates for these units as soon as confirmation is received from QCA.
A2 Psychology and Sport	2548 Optional 16.7% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport included in the optional topics at A2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now called Psychology of Sport and Exercise. Question style and type reflects Stretch and Challenge criteria, which means that questions will be more open, encouraging extended writing using a variety of introductions for example 'analyse', 'evaluate' and 'discuss'. Number of sub-topics reduced in line with centre feedback to ensure adequate depth of coverage. New unit code G543. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with centre feedback – centres asked us to provide the most popular options, but with more direction and focus on the topics to be covered within them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full list of topics can be found in the specification available on the OCR website.

A2

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
Psychology and Crime	2549 Optional 16.7% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime included in the optional topics at A2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now called Forensic Psychology. Question style and type reflects Stretch and Challenge criteria, which means that questions will be more open, encouraging extended writing using a variety of introductions for example 'analyse', 'evaluate' and 'discuss'. Number of sub-topics reduced in line with centre feedback to ensure adequate depth of coverage. New unit code G543. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-line with centre feedback – centres asked us to provide the most popular options but with more direction and focus on the topics to be covered within. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full list of topics can be found in the specification available on the OCR website.

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Candidates must complete four units. Within Unit three candidates have four options from which they must select two.

	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	Psychological Investigations	G541 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal introduction to world of psychological research methods - candidate's conduct four small scale investigations of their own in the school or college. This is an excellent way of introducing learners to carrying out research in a practical setting as well as introducing a range of methods, issues and debates concerning research. • This real life, hands on approach to Psychology is enjoyed by students who have the opportunity to take ownership of the tasks and develop their evaluation skills and understanding of research. • Weighting and content makes this unit an ideal choice for January sitting in the first year of learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCR is currently developing teacher support, programmes of INSET and working closely with publishers to deliver support to accompany the new specification. • More information on support will appear after QCA accreditation. • Guidance within specification. • Teacher Support Document. • Schemes of Work. • Lesson Plans. • Sample Assessment Material.
AS	Core Studies	G542 Mandatory 70% (AS) 35% (A Level) 2hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core studies cover the exemplar studies in this field and demonstrate how learning about behaviour has influenced our thinking today. • The core studies approach is unique to OCR and centres have told us that it is popular with teachers and learners as a great introduction to Psychology. Students' learning and critical evaluation skills are developed from this platform. • The number and selection of core studies has been refined in order to ensure volume and suitability of content remains manageable and stimulating and the momentum of study is maintained. • The core studies approach offers a logical and focused introduction to Psychology whilst still allowing variation and opportunities to use a variety of stimuli in the classroom. 	
A2	Options in Applied Psychology Candidates choose two areas from four: - Forensic Psychology - Health & Clinical Psychology - Psychology of Education - Psychology of Sport & Exercise	G543 Mandatory 30% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to learn about Applications of Psychology and how theory is applied in real life situations. • Candidates and teachers can chose areas of particular interest from list of options. • Direction on topics is provided in order to focus learning. 	
A2	Approaches and Research Methods in Psychology	G544 Mandatory 20% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This unit draws together learning from all units into a whole. In particular it looks at approaches and develops aspects of research methods introduced in units one and two. • Stretch and Challenge elements will allow most able candidates to shine. 	

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