

Pearson Edexcel IAL in Psychology



100% externally assessed



Exams in January and June

Containing up to date and engaging content, the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Psychology is relevant to an international audience and uses a broad base of both famous, traditional and contemporary studies. There is also a 10% mathematical content and students are allowed to use a calculator in examinations.

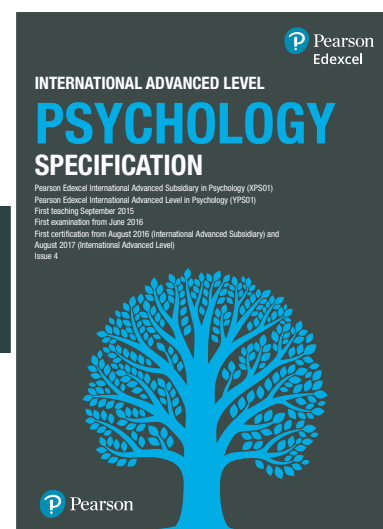
Students will:

- develop research methods and carry out practical work by using various techniques in appropriate topics
- learn to apply psychological theory to everyday behaviour and to appreciate the variety of people's characteristics
- learn how to analyse aspects of their own behaviour in different circumstances.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of psychology and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills in using scientific methods, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- develop competence and confidence in using a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for psychology, including developing an interest in further international study and careers associated with psychology
- appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how psychology contributes to the success of the economy and society.

For further information and to download the specification, visit qualifications.pearson.com/ialpsychology



IAS in Psychology: Content & Assessment Overviews

The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Psychology and the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Psychology are modular qualifications. The Advanced Subsidiary can be claimed on completion of the two International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS) units.

Unit 1 - Social and cognitive psychology		
Unit code: WPS01/01	40% of the total IAS	20% of the total IAL
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes		Availability: January and June
Content - Students will study:	Assessment - Students answer all questions from three sections.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic A: Social psychology • Topic B: Cognitive psychology 	<p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social psychology, totals 26 marks and comprises short-answer questions and one eight-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive psychology, totals 26 marks and comprises short-answer questions and one eight-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprises one 12-mark extended open-response question on either social or cognitive psychology. 	
Unit 2 - Biological psychology, learning theories and development		
Unit code: WPS02/01	60% of the total IAS	30% of the total IAL
Written examination: 2 hours		Availability: January and June
Content - Students will study:	Assessment - Students answer all questions from three sections.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic C: Biological psychology • Topic D: Learning theories and development 	<p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological psychology, totals 34 marks and comprises short-answer questions and one eight-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning theories and development, totals 34 marks and comprises short-answer questions and one eight-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprises one 12-mark and one 16-mark extended open-response question. The 12-mark question covers either biological psychology or learning theories and development and the 16-mark question covers both biological psychology, and learning theories and development. 	

IA2 in Psychology: Content & Assessment Overviews

The International Advanced Level can be claimed on completion of all four units (IAS and IA2 units).

Unit 3 - Applications of psychology	
Unit code: WPS03/01	20% of the total IAL
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes	Availability: January and June
Content - Students will study:	Assessment - Students must answer all questions from Section A and all questions from a choice of two topic areas in Section B.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic E: Developmental psychology <p>Optional topics (students must study one of the following topics):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic F: Criminological psychology Topic G: Health psychology 	<p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental psychology, totals 32 marks and comprises short-answer questions and two eight-mark extended open-response question. One eight-mark question focuses on developmental psychology. One eight-mark synoptic question is based on developmental psychology and issues from Units 1 and 2. <p>Section B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents students with a choice of one from either criminological or health psychology. Each section totals 32 marks and comprises short-answer questions and two eight-mark extended open-response questions.

Unit 4: Clinical psychology and psychological skills	
Unit code: WPS04/01	30% of the total IAL
Written examination: 2 hours	Availability: January and June
Content - Students will study:	Assessment - Students must answer all questions from five sections.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic H: Clinical psychology Topic I: Psychological skills 	<p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical psychology, totals 32 marks and comprises short-answer questions <p>Section B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical psychology, comprises one 16-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological skills, totals 20 marks and comprises short-answer questions drawing on research methods from other topic areas (except Topics F and G). <p>Section D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological skills, comprises one eight-mark extended open-response question based on the analysis of a key question from other topic areas (except Topics F and G). <p>Section E</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological skills, comprises one 20-mark synoptic question based on issues and debates from other topic areas (except Topics F and G).

Developing transferable skills valued by universities and employers

In recent years, universities and employers have highlighted the need for students and graduates to develop a range of transferable skills, often referred to as 'soft skills', to enable them to better meet the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

In fact, universities and employers consider transferable skills to be the largest skills gap overall.



1 in 6

employers have difficulty finding candidates with the skills they require¹



54%

of companies say that skills shortages impact their ability to serve their customers²



1 in 3

skills in a job posting is a "soft skill"¹



87%

of university professors do not think students have the research skills needed for degree-level study³

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels (IALs) equip students with these embedded transferable skills sought after by universities and employers. They develop core competencies, such as problem-solving, critical thinking and verbal reasoning. Transferable skills are signposted in our IAL qualifications and published teaching and learning resource so students know the skills they are developing throughout their studies.

Prepare your learners for more than just a grade

We've provided **skills mapping and transferable skills subject definitions** documents for your subject area, so you can easily identify what skills can be developed in your day to day teaching. Find out more online by visiting your subject page and searching under the *Teaching and Learning materials* tab [qualifications.pearson.com/IAL](https://www.pearson.com/IAL)

¹ *Employability - Personal & Social Capability Framework report from Pearson, 2016.*

² *Employability report from PSB for Pearson, 2016.*

³ *Bridging the Gap: Understanding the Differing Research Expectations of First-Year Students and Professors, Meg Raven, Mount Saint Vincent University, 2016.*