

GCSE Psychology

Your companion guide
to our new specification

First teaching from September 2017
First assessment summer 2019



Find out more at:
aqa.org.uk/psychology

GCSE Psychology is changing

We've created this guide to help clarify how the new GCSE changes from Ofqual and the Department for Education will affect you and your students.

These changes will apply to all exam boards offering GCSE Psychology from September 2017.

All GCSEs will be linear

All exams will take place at the end of the course.

GCSEs will be graded 9–1

All new GCSEs will be graded 9–1, rather than A*–G. Grade 9 will be the highest and equivalent of an A**. Grade 4 will be equivalent to a Grade C and Grade 1 will be equivalent to a Grade G.

Key dates for your diary	
Download our draft specification for GCSE Psychology from aqa.org.uk/psychology	June 2016
Book your place at our free GCSE Psychology launch event (also available online)	July and September 2016
Download our accredited specification from aqa.org.uk/psychology	Autumn 2016
Download specimen question papers and marks schemes from the GCSE Psychology page on our website	From autumn 2016
Start teaching our new GCSE Psychology	September 2017
First exams for the new GCSE Psychology	Summer 2019

For more information about GCSE changes, visit aqa.org.uk

A specification for you and your students

Creating a new GCSE Psychology qualification that meets the needs of you and your students is extremely important to us. That's why we've worked with teachers and subject experts to design a new specification that you'll enjoy teaching as much as your students will enjoy learning.

1. We're confident you'll find our new specification engaging, interesting and practical to teach.
2. Topic changes have been kept to a minimum so you'll be familiar with lots of the content.
3. We're also hosting free online, 'specification launch events', to ensure you're fully prepared to teach the new specification in September 2017.

We're here if you need us

Want to speak to someone in the GCSE Psychology team?

T: 01483 477 822

E: psychology@aqa.org.uk

Explore our draft specifications:
aqa.org.uk/psychology

Find out more about the new GCSE grades:
aqa.org.uk/exam-changes



Reasons you'll enjoy teaching this new AQA specification

- By helping students to understand how people think, you'll pass on relationship-building skills to last a lifetime.
- You'll also develop their communication, research and critical thinking skills.
- There's flexibility to teach areas you most enjoy from the current specification.
- You can re-use many of your existing resources.

How the new assessment will work

- 100% exam based with no non-exam assessment.
- Two equally weighted components of one hour and 45 minutes worth 100 marks each sat at the end of the course.
- Our assessment will consist of a variety of question styles including multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.

Specification at a glance

Component 1	+	Component 2
<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory • Perception • Development • Research methods 		<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social influence • Language, thought and communication • Brain and neuropsychology • Psychological problems
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 100 marks • 50 % of GCSE 		<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 100 marks • 50 % of GCSE
<p>Questions</p> <p>Section A – multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 25 marks</p> <p>Section B – multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 25 marks</p> <p>Section C – multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 25 marks</p> <p>Section D – multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 25 marks</p>		<p>Questions</p> <p>Section A – multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 25 marks</p> <p>Section B – multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 25 marks</p> <p>Section C – multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 25 marks</p> <p>Section D – multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 25 marks</p>

You can see full details of the new specification at: aqa.org.uk/psychology

Clear assessment and marking you can trust

We know the time and effort that you and your students put in to exams. We also understand how essential it is that the marks we give are fair, reliable and trustworthy.

Getting the right results

Our Centre for Education Research and Practice (CERP) provides statistics and research evidence to ensure we assess and mark your students' work fairly and accurately. We also recruit and train the highest calibre examiners and continually monitor their work.

Clear question papers

Students of all abilities will understand our clearly worded exam papers.

Well structured mark schemes and exemplar materials

Our mark schemes demonstrate how to help your students get the best marks. Our exemplars use real student answers with comments from senior examiners to explain how our mark schemes are applied.

More exam help and advice available

1. Watch our videos on 'assessment explained' or see 'how we create a specification' at aqa.org.uk/exams
2. Analyse student results with our free Enhanced Results Analysis tool aqa.org.uk/era
3. More exam-related help is available at aqa.org.uk/results

Assessment support

Our exam resources will help you prepare for exams, these include practice questions. If you'd like to talk to us about the new exams, call us on 01483 477 822.

Free resources help you bring the new specification to life

We've worked closely with fantastic teachers to create resources you'll find useful and inspiring.

Each resource will help you with a specific aspect of teaching – either planning your lessons, teaching them, or preparing your students for exams.

Free resources include:

- events to introduce you to the new specification and advise on how you can teach it
- specimen question papers
- mark schemes
- training and professional development opportunities
- a textbook (please note that textbooks are paid-for resources).

Want to improve your teaching skills?

We can support you throughout your teaching career with practical training, tried, tested and taught by teachers.

Browse and book our professional development events at [aqa.org.uk/professional-development](https://www.aqa.org.uk/professional-development)



Join the conversation
@AQACPD

Meet the team

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Keep in touch

To contact the psychology team:

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To receive regular updates about
GCSE Psychology, register at:
aqa.org.uk/from-2017

Want to know about our
new specification, launch
meetings and resources?
aqa.org.uk/psychology

The information in this guide is based on the draft specification submitted to Ofqual in June 2016 and is subject to change. We will publish the accredited specification and specimen question papers as soon as we receive Ofqual accreditation expected in the autumn.

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