

A-Level Psychology

Revision Booklet



Specification

The topics you need to learn are as follows

1. Research methods (Component 01)

Learners will need to be familiar with the **four** main techniques for collecting/analysing data.

These are:

- self-report
- experiment
- observation
- correlation.

Learners will also need to be familiar with the following:

- planning and conducting research
- data recording, analysis and presentation
- report writing
- science in psychology.

Learners will be expected to carry out their own small scale practical activities and reflect on their experiences.

2. Psychological themes through core studies (Component 02)

Learners will need to be familiar with the **ten** key themes and the classic and contemporary core study located within each.

Learners will also need to be familiar with the following:

- areas and perspectives in psychology
- methodological issues relating to the core studies
- debates in psychology.

3. Applied psychology (Component 03)

Learners will need to be familiar with **one** compulsory section, Issues in mental health, which provides an introduction to the topic of mental health.

Learners will also study the following applied psychology options:

- Criminal psychology
- Environmental psychology

Learners will need to be familiar with the issues and debates that run through this component.

For a complete list of the requirements for each topic click on the link below.

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171732-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-psychology-h567.pdf>

Examinations

Paper 1 /90

Research methods (Component 01)

Learners are permitted to use a scientific or graphical calculator for Research methods (Component 01).

Calculators are subject to the rules in the document *Instructions for Conducting Examinations*, published annually by JCQ (www.jcq.org.uk). At least 30 of the marks available for this component will be for assessment of mathematics in the context of psychology.

Section A: Multiple choice

20 questions from across the component content. Questions could also relate to the research methods used in the core studies.

Section B: Research design and response

Assessment will focus on a novel source.

The themes for questions will be:

- the planning and design of research
- the evaluation of research
- improvements to research. ***Students will have to justify their decisions based on their own independent research.***

Section C: Data analysis and interpretation

This section will require learners to analyse and interpret novel data or a piece of hypothetical research using descriptive and/or inferential statistics.

Paper 2/105

Psychological themes through core studies (Component 02)

Section A: Core studies

Questions based on the core studies individually, in their pairs or in terms of their key theme.

Section B: Areas, perspectives and debates

Questions will focus on areas, perspectives and debates.

Section C: Practical applications

Questions will require learners to apply their knowledge and understanding of psychology to a novel source.

Paper 3/105

Applied psychology (Component 03)

Section A: Issues in mental health

Compulsory questions. These will range from short answer to extended response questions.

Section B: Options

Learners answer **one** question from each of the **two** options they have studied. Each question will have three question parts. Section B has **four** options:

- Child psychology
- Criminal psychology
- Environmental psychology
- Sport and exercise psychology

Assessment Objective	
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures.
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• in a theoretical context• in a practical context• when handling qualitative data• when handling quantitative data.
AO3	Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• make judgements and reach conclusions• develop and refine practical design and procedures

AO weightings in OCR A Level in Psychology

The relationship between the assessment objectives and the components are shown in the following table:

Component	A01	A02	A03
RESEARCH METHODS (01)	9-11	12-14	8-9
PSYCHOLOGICAL THEMES THROUGH CORE STUDIES (02)	13-15	5-7	15-17
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY (03)	8-9	13-14	12-14
Total	30-35%	30-35%	35-40%

Developing A01	Developing A02	Developing A03
Learn research methods Including inferential and descriptive statistics	Link to the CONTEXT of the question	Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the research methods and sampling methods.
Learn the facts about the core studies, key themes, approaches and perspectives.	Link to the key themes, perspectives and approaches. Apply evidence from the studies to support your points	Evaluate the reliability/validity of the studies. Evaluate the approaches and the debates.
Learn the key debates; nature-vs-nurture, free-will-vs-determinism, reductionism-vs-holism, individual-vs-situational, psychology as a science, usefulness of research	Apply the debates to the studies and support with evidence	Evaluate the debates with evidence.
Learn the optional topics with all the key studies	Apply evidence and contemporary examples to questions	Evaluate the research in terms of methodological issues and debates.

Revision Strategies

Making notes of work covered
 Summarising notes into bullet points and mind maps
 Testing yourself with knowledge check questions on particular sections
 Explaining key areas/studies to friends
 Exam style questions.
 PPQ's in timed conditions
 Use mnemonics to remember choice of statistical method

Useful links for revision resources

1. Past papers and mark schemes
<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-psychology-h167-h567-from-2015/assessment/>
2. Link for podcasts for psychology
<https://audioboom.com/playlists/1302408-ocr-psychology>
3. Main website for psychology
<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-psychology-h167-h567-from-2015/planning-and-teaching>

The key thing is hard work and motivation. It really is worth it when you get to the summer.