

IB PSYCHOLOGY HL OPTION

Assessment	Format	Weight	Time
Paper 1	3-short answer questions (one from each Approach) 1-essay question from a choice of 3 (one from each Approach)	40%	2 hrs
Paper 2	2-essay questions from a choice of 6 (from Abnormal Psychology and Psychology of Human Relationships)	20%	2 hrs
Paper 3	3-short answer questions based on an extract from a study	20%	1 hr
IA	Replication of an experimental study	20%	---

IB PSYCHOLOGY SL OPTION

Assessment	Format	Weight	Time
Paper 1	3-short answer questions (one from each Approach) 1-essay question from a choice of 3 (one from each Approach)	50%	2 hrs
Paper 2	1-essay questions from a choice of 6 (from Abnormal Psychology or Psychology of Human Relationships)	25%	1 hr
IA	Replication of an experimental study	25%	---

COMMAND TERMS

(IB Papers)

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (250 words)

DESCRIBE	Give a detailed account
IDENTIFY	Provide an answer from a number of possibilities
OUTLINE	Give a brief account or summary
COMMENT	Give a judgement based on a given statement or result of a calculation
EXPLAIN	Give a detailed account including reasons or causes
SUGGEST	Propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer

ESSAY QUESTIONS (800 words)

CONTRAST	Give an account of the differences between two (or more) items or situations referring to both (all) of them throughout
DISCUSS	Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence
EVALUATE	Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations
TO WHAT EXTENT	Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with appropriate evidence and sound argument

CONTENT OBJECTIVES

(Core)

BIOLOGICAL APPROACH
The Brain and Behavior
<i>Describe</i> the choice of techniques used to correlate the brain with behavior based on a variety of factors including opportunity, available technology and costs.
<i>Identify</i> the strengths of weaknesses of the different techniques used to correlate the brain with behavior
<i>Explain</i> the concept of localization
<i>Describe</i> how the function of different parts of the brain is determined including the limitations
<i>Describe</i> how neural networks can change developmentally over time or after an injury (neuroplasticity)
<i>Explain</i> the effect of neurotransmitters on behavior using appropriate examples
Hormones and Behavior
<i>Describe</i> the effect of a hormone on human behavior using one or more examples
<i>Comment</i> on the inconclusive evidence that pheromones may have on human behavior
Genetics and Behavior
<i>Identify</i> links between genes and certain types of behavior in the light of environmental factors
<i>Comment</i> on the importance of relatedness (genetic similarities) as it relates to twin or kinship studies
<i>Describe</i> how evolutionary pressures impact gene codes which, in turn, impact behavior and physical traits
Role of Animal Research
<i>Describe</i> the value of animal models in psychology research
<i>Comment</i> on whether animal research can provide insight into human behavior
<i>Outline</i> ethical considerations in animal research

COGNITIVE APPROACH
Cognitive Processing
<i>Describe</i> how The Working Memory Model provides an understanding of explicit/implicit memory, sensory memory, short-term memory and long-time memory
<i>Describe</i> cognitive schemas as mental representations that organize our knowledge, beliefs and expectations
<i>Comment</i> on the biases in thinking and memory processes that schema processing can create
<i>Explain</i> how rational (controlled) thinking and intuitive (automatic) thinking effect decision-making
<i>Comment</i> on how emotions may influence thinking and the decision-making process
Reliability of Cognitive Processes
<i>Describe</i> how memory may be changed during storage, processing and retrieval
<i>Explain</i> common sources of biases in thinking and decision making including the tendency to focus on limited available information, seeking out information that confirms pre-existing beliefs and avoiding the mental stress of holding inconsistent cognitions
Emotion and Cognition
<i>Explain</i> how emotions shape the experience of events and guide the individual in how to react to events, objects and situations
<i>Describe</i> how memories of emotional events may have a persistence and vividness that other memories lack but that even these may fade over time
Cognitive Processing in the Digital World
<i>Comment</i> on the influence of digital technology on cognitive processes
<i>Identify</i> the positive and negative effects of modern technology on cognitive processes
<i>Describe</i> methods used to study the interaction between digital technology and cognitive processes

SOCIOCULTURAL APPROACH
The Individual and the Group
<i>Explain</i> how social identity theory posits that a person's sense of who they are is based on their membership of social groups
<i>Explain</i> how social cognition theory suggests that behavior is modeled by other members of a group and acquired through observation or imitation
<i>Describe</i> the development and effect of stereotypes with reference to one or more example
Cultural Origins of Behavior and Cognition
<i>Describe</i> how different cultural groups are characterized by shared attitudes, behaviors and symbols
<i>Identify</i> one or more cultural dimensions that members of a society value such as power/distance, individualism/collectivism, masculinity/femininity, long term/short term, indulgence/restraint
Cultural Influences on Individual Attitudes, Identity and Behaviors
<i>Explain</i> enculturation as the process by which people learn the necessary skills and norms in the context of their culture
<i>Describe</i> how people may change as a result of contact with other cultures in order to assimilate with a new culture (acculturation)
The Influence of Globalization on Individual Behavior
<i>Comment</i> on how globalization may influence behavior
<i>Explain</i> the effect of the interaction of local and global influences on behavior
<i>Outline</i> methods used to study the influence of globalization on behavior

CONTENT OBJECTIVES

(Options)

ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY OPTION
Factors Influencing Diagnosis
<i>Discuss</i> the classification systems used to diagnose abnormal behavior
<i>Discuss</i> the concepts of normality and abnormality
<i>Discuss</i> the role of clinical biases in diagnosis
<i>Discuss</i> the validity and reliability of diagnosis
Etiology of Abnormal Behavior
<i>Discuss</i> the symptoms and prevalence rates of one of the following disorders: anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders
<i>Discuss</i> etiologies of one of the following disorders: anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders
Treatment of Disorders
<i>Discuss</i> biological and psychological approaches to treatment
<i>Evaluate</i> the use of biological and psychological approaches to the treatment of a disorder
<i>To what extent</i> does culture effect treatment

PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS OPTION
Personal Relationships
<i>To what extent</i> do biological, cognitive and sociocultural factors influence human relationships?
<i>Discuss</i> biological, psychological and social origins of attraction
<i>Discuss</i> the role of communication in maintaining relationships
<i>Discuss</i> why relationships may change or end
Group Dynamics
<i>Contrast</i> co-operation versus competition
<i>Discuss</i> the origins of conflict
<i>Evaluate</i> conflict resolution
<i>Discuss</i> the origins of prejudice and discrimination
Social Responsibility
<i>Discuss</i> factors influencing bystanderism
<i>Discuss</i> prosocial behavior
<i>Evaluate</i> ways to promote prosocial behavior

CONTENT OBJECTIVES
(Researching Behavior)

RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY
Question 1 will be <u>all</u> of the following 3 questions:
Identify the research method used and outline two characteristics of the method
Describe the sampling method used in the study
Suggest an alternative or additional research method giving one reason for your choice
Question 2 will <u>one</u> of one of the following 2 questions:
Describe the ethical considerations that were applied in the study and explain if further ethical considerations could be applied
Describe the ethical considerations in reporting the results and explain additional ethical considerations that could be taken into account when applying the findings of the study
Question 3 will be <u>one</u> of the following questions:
Discuss the possibility of generalizing the findings of the study
Discuss how a researcher could ensure that the results of the study are credible
Discuss how the researchers of the study could avoid bias