

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Women and Psychology

Unit code: DH4J 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide candidates with a general introduction to psychology and psychological research, and to enable candidates to develop an understanding of psychological theories and research in relation to women.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1. Describe and analyse the principles of psychology and psychological research.
2. Evaluate the contribution of developmental psychology in understanding gender.
3. Evaluate the contribution of psychological theories and research to our understanding of self-image and eating disorders.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: It would be beneficial if candidates had undertaken some prior study of psychology, however this is not essential. Access to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, but achievement of Standard Grade or Intermediate 2 units in a social subject would be useful.

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

Context for delivery: This Unit has been designed to be delivered as part of the PDA Women's Studies, however, it may also be suitable for stand-alone delivery.

Assessment: Assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 will be by one instrument of assessment. This will take the form of one open book assessment with extended response questions. This will be conducted under supervision. Candidates will not see the question papers in advance. It is recommended that the assessment be undertaken in one sitting of two hours' duration. The candidate's response will be approximately 1200 words.

Assessment for Outcome 3 will be by one open-book essay of at least 1000 words in length.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Women and Psychology

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Describe and analyse the principles of psychology and psychological research

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Main aims of psychology as a discipline
- ◆ Applications of psychology in society
- ◆ Major research methods used in psychological research described and analysed

Evidence requirements

Candidates should be able to give an overview and analysis of the main aims of psychology, explain in detail a minimum of two applications of psychology in society, and explain and analyse at least three research methods commonly used in psychological research.

Assessment for this Outcome will be integrated with Outcome 2 and take the form of extended response questions in an open-book, supervised setting. Candidates will not know the questions in advance. Candidates should write approximately 1200 words.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment guidelines for this Outcome are contained within the Evidence requirements. Where a resit assessment is required, candidates should provide evidence relating to different applications and research methods from those used in the first attempt.

Outcome 2

Evaluate the contribution of developmental psychology in understanding gender

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Two key gender-topics in developmental psychology
- ◆ Application in society of each topic
- ◆ Relevant conflicting theories/opinions/arguments relating to each topic
- ◆ Relevant research evidence relating to each topic

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Women and Psychology

- ◆ Evidence from selected topics used to evaluate the contribution of developmental psychology in understanding gender

Topics may include any two from: attachment and separation, development of gender identity, influence of gender in development of social and moral behaviour, adolescence and gender, ageing and gender.

Evidence requirements

Candidates should be able to give an overview of the chosen topics, explain the main conflicting theories/opinions and arguments, detail at least one application in society and explain two research studies per topic. Candidates should use the chosen topics to evaluate the contribution of developmental psychology in understanding gender.

Assessment for this Outcome will be integrated with Outcome 1.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment guidelines for this Outcome are contained within the Evidence requirements.

Outcome 3

Evaluate the contribution of psychological theories and research to our understanding of self-image and eating disorders

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Current understanding of self-image and eating disorders
- ◆ Relevant conflicting theories/opinions/arguments relating to self-image and eating disorders
- ◆ Relevant research relating to self-image and eating disorders
- ◆ Contribution of psychological theories and research to our understanding of self-image and eating disorders

Evidence requirements

Candidates should be able to give an overview of current developments in eating disorders and current best practice in treatment. Candidates should be able to explain in detail at least two conflicting theories and two relevant research studies, and use this knowledge to evaluate the contribution of psychological theories and research to our understanding of self-image and eating disorders.

Assessment for this Outcome should comprise an open-book essay of at least 1000 words in length.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Women and Psychology

Assessment guidelines

Assessment guidelines for this Outcome are contained within the Evidence Requirements.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DH4J 34
Unit title:	Women and Psychology
Superclass category:	PK
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Women and Psychology

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This unit is intended to provide candidates with an introduction to psychology and psychological research in the context of the psychological contribution to our understanding of gender.

Outcome 1 introduces the discipline of psychology and the major methods of psychological research.

When introducing the discipline, candidates should be given an overview of different approaches and debates within psychology i.e. is psychology a science, nature vs nurture.

Candidates are not expected to have an in-depth understanding of the different psychological schools.

Research methods - experiment, observation, case study, survey.

Outcome 2 looks at the contribution of developmental psychology to an understanding of gender. As such, the topics selected should be relevant to the wider study of women's studies and of gender.

Topics may include any two from: attachment and separation, development of gender identity, influence of gender in development of social and moral behaviour, adolescence and gender, ageing and gender.

Outcome 3 looks at the specific area of self-image and eating disorders. Candidates should be given an overview of different trends and issues relating to the topic and current good practice in treatment.

Theories may include the biomedical approach; social/family model; psychoanalytical and feminist theories. Studies should be relevant to the theories examined.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit will form part of a group award that is designed to give candidates an understanding of the issues relating to women in society, but it is also suitable for stand-alone delivery.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Women and Psychology

While some candidates may have prior experience of studying psychology as part of an Access course or Higher, the Unit is designed to give an introductory overview of the subject and its contribution to women's/gender issues.

Assessment will be by two instruments of assessment, which will be undertaken at appropriate times during the Unit. The assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 will be carried out under controlled conditions. The assessment for Outcome 3 will be open book and be completed in the candidate's own time, and appropriate measures should be put in place to ensure that the work submitted is the candidate's own.

In Outcome 3, there are opportunities for integration of delivery with Women's Health Outcome 3, covering Women's Mental Health, and candidates should be encouraged to draw upon learning elsewhere in the PDA.

Open learning

The Unit could be delivered by open or distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that the assessment was conducted under supervision. For further information on Open and Distance Learning, please refer to the SQA publication, *Assessment and Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, 2000).

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Additional Support Needs* (BA 2399, SQA, due 2004).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Women and Psychology

This Unit aims to introduce you to psychology as a discipline.

We begin the unit by studying the main aims of psychology, some applications of psychology in society, and psychological research methods.

You will then look in more detail at the contribution of developmental psychology to understanding women, studying two topics from the following: attachment and separation, development of gender identity, influence of gender in development of social and moral behaviour, adolescence and gender, ageing and gender.

Lastly, you will look at issues relating to self-image and eating disorders and how different psychological theories attempt to understand these, studying different theories and research studies relating to the topics.

At the end of Outcomes 1 and 2, you will complete an open book assessment where you will answer extended response questions. You will be expected to write approximately 1200 words. You will not see the questions before the start of the assessment. At the end of Outcome 3, you will write an essay of at least 1000 words. This will be written under open book conditions.