

-SQA- SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**Hanover House
24 Douglas Street
GLASGOW G2 7NQ**

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

-Module Number- 7177011 **-Session-1991-92**
-Superclass- PK

-Title- INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

-DESCRIPTION-

Purpose A student completing this module will have been introduced to Psychology at a basic level and will be in a position to undertake further, more demanding, modules in this area. The module will provide students with details of the history and development of Psychology. It will also outline the role and function of Psychology in society. Students will also be introduced to research methods and experiments, and the terminology used.

Preferred Entry Level No formal entry requirements.

Outcomes The student should:

1. describe the contribution of major figures to the development of psychological knowledge;
2. apply psychological explanations to the analysis of everyday situations;
3. describe the main types of research methods used by psychologists.

Assessment Procedures Acceptable performance in the module will be satisfactory achievement of all the Performance Criteria specified for each Outcome.

The following abbreviations are used below:

PC Performance Criteria
IA Instrument of Assessment

Note: The Outcomes and PCs are mandatory and cannot be altered. The IA may be altered by arrangement with SQA. (Where a range of performance is indicated, this should be regarded as an extension of the PCs and is therefore mandatory).

OUTCOME 1 DESCRIBE THE CONTRIBUTION OF MAJOR FIGURES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

- PCs
- (a) The distinction made between various approaches taken by different psychologists is accurate.
 - (b) The explanation given of the historical background leading to the development of different approaches by different psychologists is accurate.
 - (c) The description of the major contributions of given psychologists to psychological knowledge is accurate.

IA Restricted Response

The student will be tested on his/her ability to describe the contribution of major figures to the development of psychological knowledge. The student should describe in at least 300 words the different approaches taken by three psychologists and state how these have advanced psychological knowledge.

Satisfactory performance will be that the student achieves all the Performance Criteria correctly.

OUTCOME 2 APPLY PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS TO THE ANALYSIS OF EVERYDAY SITUATIONS

- PCs
- (a) The selection of an everyday situation to which psychological explanations can be applied is justifiable.
 - (b) The application of recognised psychological explanations in the analysis is consistent with recognised psychological usage.

IA Restricted Response

The student will be tested on his/her ability to apply psychological explanations to the analysis of everyday situations. The student should be directed to consider an everyday situation from his/her own experience, to which at least one of the explanations they have studied can be applied. The everyday situation should be described and a statement made of how the psychological explanation(s) can be used to understand the behaviour in the everyday situation.

Satisfactory performance will be that the student achieves all the Performance Criteria correctly.

OUTCOME 3 DESCRIBE THE MAIN TYPES OF RESEARCH METHODS USED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS

- PCs
- (a) The identification made of the different methods of research is consistent with recognised psychological usage.
 - (b) The description of the main methods of research is accurate.

IA Restricted Response

The student will be tested on his/her ability to describe the main types of research methods used by psychologists. The description will include the correct identification of all 4 of the main methods of research, ie. Experiment, Observation, Case Study and Survey. The description will include up to 75 words of text on each method of research.

Satisfactory performance will be that the student achieves all the Performance Criteria correctly.

**The following sections of the descriptor are offered as guidance.
They are not mandatory.**

CONTENT/CONTEXT

Corresponding to Outcomes 1-3:

The intention of the module is to explore the development of Psychology as a discipline by looking at the different approaches and methods of some prominent psychologists. It is suggested that some of the following may be appropriately studied:

Freud;
Pavlov;
Wundt;
Skinner;
Piaget;
Luria;
Lorenz;
Eysenck.

in order that developments in different areas of Psychology and the different research methods used can be highlighted. The importance of the social contexts of these developments should be emphasised.

It is suggested that the main methods to be considered should be:

Experiment (laboratory and field)
Observation
Case Study
Survey

It should be explained that most of the historical figures used a variety of methodologies.

Examples from everyday life should be used to demonstrate the application of psychological principles. Teachers should use the students' experiences and interests to generate a large number of practical examples. Such examples might be phobias; the role of reward in learning; bedwetting; falling in love.

SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

The following approaches are recommended:

group discussion, teacher exposition, brainstorming, case study, text books. For everyday life situations, students should look at materials from newspapers, TV programmes, videos. Fact sheets and question and answer sessions should be used to test the student's understanding.