

**-SQA- SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY**

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

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**NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR**

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**-Module Number-** 7177051 **-Session-1991-92**  
**-Superclass-** PK

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**-Title-** **DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY: THE INDIVIDUAL AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**-DESCRIPTION-**

**Purpose** A student completing this module will have been introduced to the study of Psychology and will be in a position to undertake further modules in this area and progress to undertake a practical investigation.

This module has been designed as part of a series of modules at different levels of demand which accredit competence in Psychology. The series was designed to facilitate entry to Higher Education. However, the modules in the series may be used in their own right with senior school pupils, adult returners and those whose employment requires them to develop a psychological perspective.

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**Preferred Entry Level** No formal recommendations for entry but students may benefit from 7177011: Introduction to Psychology, which may be offered concurrently with this module.

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**Outcomes** The student should:

1. explain how psychology can be used to contribute to the understanding of human development;
2. describe the main methods of research used by developmental psychologists;
3. identify applications of developmental psychology in everyday life.

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**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 EXPLAIN HOW PSYCHOLOGY CAN BE USED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

- PCs
- (a) The selection of concepts from developmental psychology which can be applied to human development in individuals is relevant.
  - (b) The application of selected concepts from developmental psychology is appropriate.

IA Extended Response

The student will be asked to prepare a report of 300 to 500 words on a study which contributes to an understanding of at least one area of Human Development. The report should contain a description of how the study was carried out, what the results of the study were and what conclusions can be drawn from it.

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

**OUTCOME 2 DESCRIBE THE MAIN METHODS OF RESEARCH USED BY DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

- PCs
- (a) Identification is made of the observational method of research used in developmental psychology in contrast to other methods.
  - (b) The description of the observational method of research used in developmental psychology is accurate.
  - (c) The use of the terms 'structured observation' and 'natural/field experiments' is correct.

IA Multiple Choice Questions and Restricted Response

Performance Criterion (a) will be assessed by the student being presented with 8 multiple choice items in which all 4 methods of research are represented. The student will be required to distinguish those which use observational methods from the other types of research methods.

Performance Criteria (b) and (c) will be assessed by the student describing observational methods of research in approximately 150 words.

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

**OUTCOME 3**

**IDENTIFY APPLICATIONS OF DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY IN EVERYDAY LIFE**

PCs

- (a) The identification of appropriate areas of developmental psychology which could assist in understanding a given problem, is accurate.
- (b) The application of concepts in developmental psychology is consistent with recognised psychological usage.

IA Extended Response

The student will be presented with a choice of case studies which illustrate problems where developmental psychology methods and concepts can be applied. The student will provide an accurate analysis of the chosen problem, using ideas from developmental psychology and suggest strategies for solving the problem.

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:

1. Students should be introduced to the concept of "whole life" development, from conception to old age. Topics of study may be selected from the following areas: pre-natal, birth and infancy, pre-school, school, adolescence, early adult, mid-years, elderly. Physical, cognitive, social and emotional development should be considered throughout the life span.
2. The methodology which should be emphasised in this module is:
  - (i) Surveys/Questionnaires/Interviews;
  - (ii) Experimentation - field/laboratory;
  - (iii) Observation - participant/non-participant;
  - (iv) Case Study.

The observational method should be actively contrasted with the other methods, highlighting structured observation, natural and field experiments.

3. A choice of case studies should be presented to students to illustrate problems where developmental psychology methods and concepts can be applied, eg. development of locomotion; conservation; egocentrism; visual perception; language development; attachment and bonding; separation; child rearing.

### SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

Videos, demonstrations, experiments, teacher exposition, case study, text books and other written resources. Fact sheets and question and answer sessions should be used to test the students' understanding. Visiting speakers, and visits to schools, hospitals, nurseries, toy shops, homes with young children, homes for the elderly, children's homes, occupational therapy centres, adult training centres where developmental psychology concepts are used, may also be usefully included.

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