-SQA- SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

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NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

-Module Number-	**7177061**	**-Session-1991-92**
-Superclass-	**PK**	

-Title-	**SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: THE INDIVIDUAL AND GROUPS**

-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.
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.
Outcomes	The student should:

1. explain how psychology can be used to contribute to the understanding of individual behaviour in groups;

2. describe the main methods of research used by social psychologists;

3. identify applications of social psychology in everyday life.

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 INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOUR IN GROUPS**

PCs   (a)   The selection of concepts from social psychology which can be applied to people in groups is relevant.
         (b)   The application of selected concepts from social psychology is appropriate.

         IA   Extended Response

The student will be tested on his/her ability to explain how psychology can be used to contribute to the understanding of individual behaviour in groups. The student should be provided with a checklist of social psychological concepts, and, using this checklist, should describe a formal or informal group to which he/she belongs. The description should include information on (a) which of those concepts can be applied to the group, and (b) how these selected concepts can be applied to the group. The report should be of 300 to 500 words in length.

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

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

PCs   (a)   Identification is made of the survey method of research used in social psychology in contrast to other methods.
         (b)   The description of the survey method of research used in social psychology is accurate.

         (c)   Identification of the ethical problems in each of the main research methods in social psychology is accurate.

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 survey methods from the other types of research methods.

Performance Criterion (b) will be assessed by the student describing the survey method of research in approximately 100 words.

Performance Criterion (c) will be assessed by the student identifying some of the ethical problems in each of the main research methods in social psychology, in approximately 100 words.

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

OUTCOME 3   **IDENTIFY APPLICATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY IN EVERYDAY LIFE**

PCs

(a)   The identification of appropriate areas of social psychology which could assist in understanding a given situation is accurate.

(b)   The application of concepts in social psychology is consistent with recognised psychological usage.

IA   Extended Response

The student will be tested on his/her ability to identify an application of social psychology in everyday life. The student will be required to prepare a report on an interview which he/she has had with an individual who is involved in organising a formal group. The report should include a description of the aims, methods and results of the interview. A discussion of these results should also be included and clear conclusions should be drawn.

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.   Suggested content areas, without implying exclusivity, might be:

        Group Processes including conformity and obedience;
        Attitudes;
        Interpersonal Perception;
        Interpersonal Attraction;
        Interpersonal Interaction;
        Aggression.

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 survey method should be actively contrasted with the other methods
        from both a methodological and ethical point of view. In particular,
        students should be made aware of the ethical implications of the use of
        deception, such as the use of confederates.

3.   Students should design and construct an interview with someone
        involved in a group. The student should describe the aims of the
        interview, the method(s) used, the results of the investigation, a
        discussion of the results and a conclusion.

        The discussion should identify the areas of social psychology which can
        appropriately be used to analyse behaviour within the group being
        studied.

SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

The following approaches are recommended:

Use of student's experience; practical application of concepts to the student's
experience; observation of their own and others' behaviour; (eg. students should
consider a group to which they belong) attitude questionnaires; videotape
material; media resources; simulation,
eg. group exercises.

Students should be encouraged to compare different recognised theories within
each of the suggested content areas.

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