

National Course modification summary: Psychology



National 5 and Higher: session 2021–22

National 5

| Component | Marks | Scaled marks | Duration |
|----------------|-------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Question paper | 50 | 70 | 1 hour and 30 minutes |
| Assignment | 30 | 30 | carried out over time |

Modifications for session 2021–22 remain the same as session 2020–21.

Question paper

Optional questions from both sections of the question paper will be removed, and the mark allocation for the mandatory topic in both sections will increase to 25 marks. The total mark allocation for the question paper will reduce from 70 to 50 marks, and the duration will reduce from 2 hours to 1 hour and 30 minutes. The question paper will be structured as follows:

- ◆ Section 1: Individual behaviour — sleep and dreams (25 marks)
- ◆ Section 2: Social behaviour — conformity (25 marks)

The purpose of this modification to the question paper is to ease pressure on teaching and learning, while ensuring that both 'Individual behaviour' and 'Social behaviour' are assessed in the question paper, with the range of specified skills still being sampled.

The course content remains unchanged, and you must continue to deliver content from optional topics in order to give candidates the opportunity to study the breadth of psychological knowledge as indicated in the course specification. You are free to decide on timing and depth in relation to the optional topics that will not be assessed in the 2022 question paper.

Question paper marks will be scaled to preserve normal component weightings.

Assignment

For session 2021–22 you can suggest the research topic and the research method to candidates. This modification will give you greater control, allowing you to suggest the research topic and research method for groups within the class or for the whole class, which will reduce teaching time and support delivery of the assignment.

Higher

| Component | Marks | Scaled marks | Duration |
|----------------|-------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Question paper | 60 | 80 | 2 hours |
| Assignment | 40 | 40 | carried out over time |

Modifications for session 2021–22 remain the same as session 2020–21.

Question paper

Optional questions from both sections of the question paper will be removed, and the mark allocation for the mandatory topic in both sections will be 30 marks. The total mark allocation for the question paper will reduce from 80 to 60 marks, and the duration will reduce from 2 hours and 40 minutes to 2 hours. The question paper will be structured as follows:

- ◆ Section 1: Individual behaviour — sleep and dreams (30 marks)
- ◆ Section 2: Social behaviour — conformity and obedience (30 marks)

The purpose of this modification to the question paper is to ease pressure on teaching and learning, while ensuring that both ‘Individual behaviour’ and ‘Social behaviour’ are assessed in the question paper, with the range of specified skills still being sampled.

The course content remains unchanged, and you must continue to deliver content from optional topics in order to give candidates the opportunity to study the breadth of psychological knowledge as indicated in the course specification. You are free to decide on timing and depth in relation to the optional topics that will not be assessed in the 2022 question paper.

Question paper marks will be scaled to preserve normal component weightings.

Assignment

For session 2021–22 you can suggest the research topic and the research method to candidates. This modification will give you greater control, allowing you to suggest the research topic and research method for groups within the class or for the whole class, which will reduce teaching time and support delivery of the assignment.

To support centres in delivering the Higher Psychology assignment under physically distanced conditions, the following advice is provided:

- ◆ Candidates must still collect their own primary research data but can use a smaller sample size — a minimum of three research participants.
- ◆ Digital data collection methods can be used to gather primary data. Surveys and questionnaires can be issued, for example using individual emails or Google forms, while ensuring confidentiality is maintained.
- ◆ Laboratory experiments that are usually conducted within the classroom environment can be done virtually. For example, the Jenness ‘beans in a jar’ conformity experiment can be conducted using an image of the jar. Fake estimate sheets and blank estimate sheets can be emailed to participants in advance and responses sent back electronically.
- ◆ PowerPoint presentations and video clips can be shared virtually for use in experiments, such as those involving memory. Response sheets can be emailed to participants in advance and responses sent back electronically.

If you have any questions about these changes, please email qualification.development@sqa.org.uk.